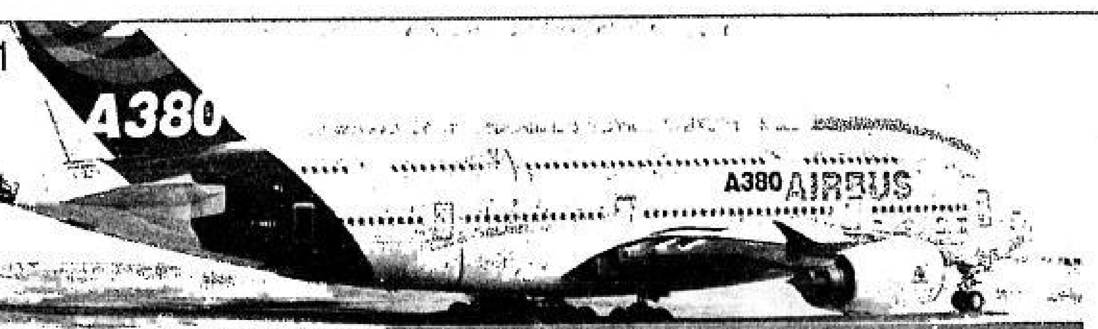
NEWS / A4

Arlegui homeowner still missing her fav rocking chair

ENTERTAINMENT/ H1

A weekend in NY with U2's Bono



Manny's new fight: Save Philippine eagle

WAG NATING HAYAANG MA-KNOCK OUT ANG AGILA!

By TJ Burgonio

HE ISN'T HANGING up his gloves yet. But Manny Pacquiao now wants to focus on a larger-than-life fight outside the ring—protecting the Philippine

MANNY'S/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, October 12, 2007 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 306 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

'It's huge!' It's bigger than Pacman, it's Superplane

By Tarra Quismundo

JUST WHEN MANILA THOUGHT BOXING hero Manny Pacquiao was the biggest hit at the airport yesterday, a giant superstar arrived some nine hours later.

The world's largest commercial airliner touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) at 2:30 p.m. yesterday, prompting an assembly at the highly restricted ramp bigger than the

'IT'S HUGE'/ A15

JDV backs off; 'sham' impeachment rap goes to slaughter

By Christian Esguerra, Norman Bordadora, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

IT WAS THE FATHER WHO BACKED off.

With President Macapagal-Arroyo bringing down the awesome powers of her office on his head, Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday folded up and allowed a purportedly "sham" impeachment complaint to move forward for consideration by the House committee on justice—where Ms Arroyo's supporters were expected to slaughter it.

Several lawmakers had said the complaint was actually a ploy to ward off more serious impeachment threats later.

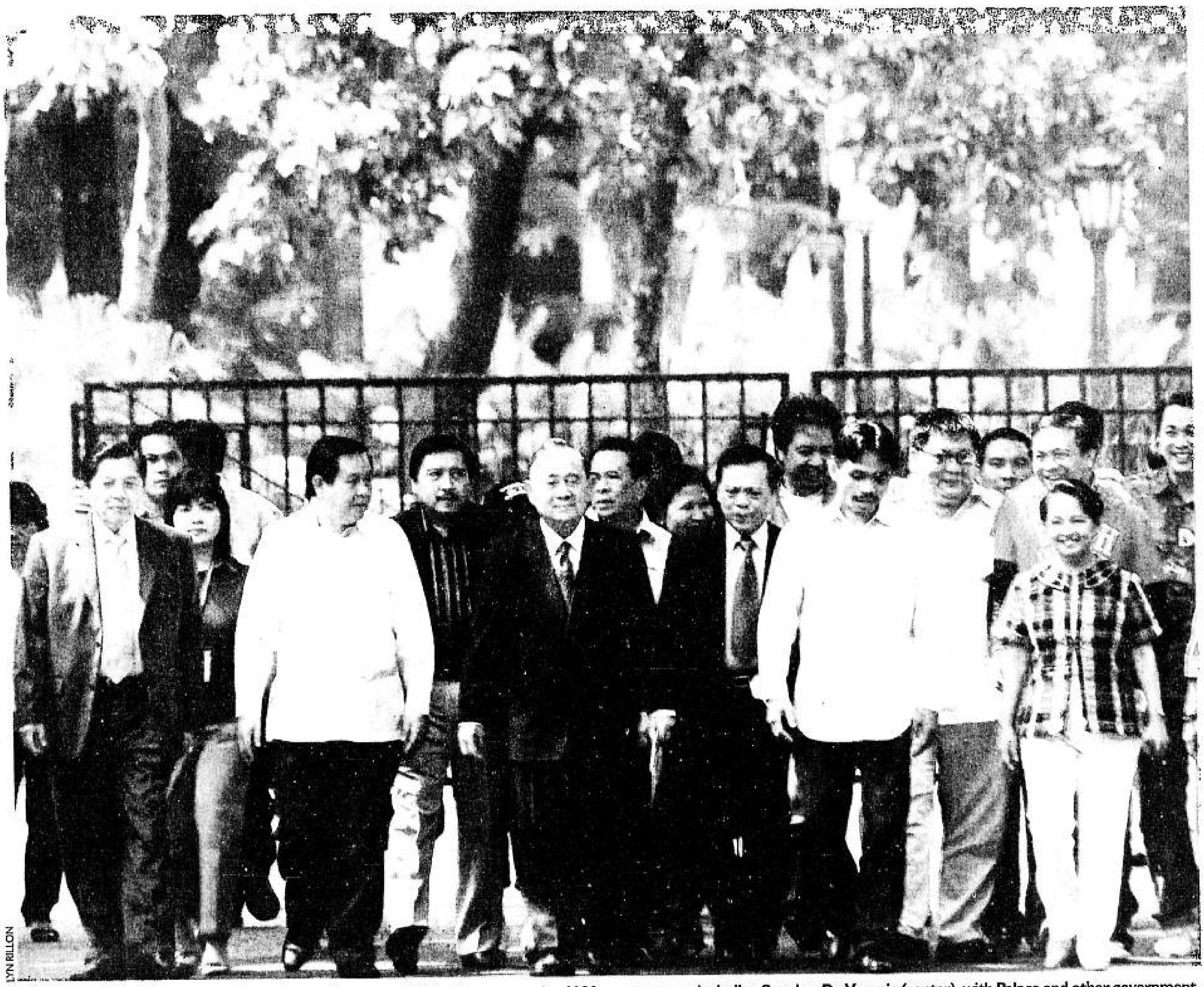
Hours before De Venecia buckled, Ms Arroyo summoned him and about 189 administration congressmen to Malacañang Palace where, according to accounts of several lawmakers, brown envelopes containing cash were handed out, along with promises of "pork barrel" largesse. *(See banner story).*

In a press conference, De Venecia gave the go-signal for the filing and referral of the impeachment complaint

JDV 'BACKS OFF'/ A17

Palace fixes 190 solons

Pro-GMA lawmakers given P.5M in cash, promised P70M in pork



LYN RILLON

LAUGHING ALL THE WAY: President Arroyo (extreme right) leads a merry mix of 190 congressmen, including Speaker De Venecia (center), with Palace and other government officials, security men, kibitzers and Pacquiao (3rd from right) on their way to the Kalayaan Hall in Malacañang where a short program is to honor the returning boxing champ.

By Christian V. Esguerra, Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

BATTLING FOR POLITICAL SURVIVAL for the third time in as many years, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday summoned loyal congressmen to Malacañang and, in a show of strength using "send-off gifts," forced Speaker Jose de Venecia to back off from an impeachment move.

Envelopes containing cash amounting to between P200,000 and P500,000 were handed out to congressmen at the meeting, along with promises of pork barrel amounting to millions of pesos, hours before administration lawmakers took action in the House of Representatives to protect Ms Arroyo from being impeached, several lawmakers present at the meeting told the INQUIRER. *(See related story on this page.)*

Ms Arroyo herself called the unscheduled breakfast meeting with around 190 congressmen but some of the INQUIRER informants said she was not around when the envelopes were supposedly distributed.

Malacañang dismissed the report as part of "political intrigue" and said that congressmen were "not for sale."

The congressmen who confirmed the incident described the handouts variously as

PALACE FIXES/ A17

GMA taps local gov't execs anew for show of force

By Christine O. Avendaño

HER ALLIANCE WITH SPEAKER JOSE DE Venecia Jr. now on shaky ground, President Macapagal-Arroyo is again turning to local government executives for aid and comfort.

And as in the crisis that attended the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, governors, mayors and other local officials arrived in full force at Malacañang yesterday. The President met with them only a few hours after meeting with close to 200 con-

GMA TAPS/ A17

90% of journalists slain since 2001 exposing graft

By Rachel E. Khan
Contributor

NEARLY 90 PERCENT OF THE JOURNALISTS slain in the line of duty during the Arroyo administration were exposing corruption. Others were killed for reporting on and criticizing illegal gambling and the drug trade in their localities.

These are among the findings of the annual report on the state of press freedom released by the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) yesterday.

The study—"Press Freedom Report 2007"—is the second the CMFR has issued since the killing of journalists accelerated during the Arroyo administration.

Thirty-three journalists have been killed in the line of duty since 2001, while some 20 others were killed because of non-media related causes. Of those slain in the line of duty, 29 were exposing corrupt government practices in their home provinces or illegal

90% OF JOURNALISTS/ A15

TOWNS AWARDS

10 outstanding women hailed including PDI CEO

By Allison W. Lopez

LIKE WINE, THESE INDEPENDENT women get better with age—and don't mind going public with it.

A number of the Philippines' trailblazing women gathered yesterday at the Museo Pambata in Manila to honor 10 new "sisters" for their achievements, especially in fields formerly dominated by men.

The 2007 batch of The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) awardees includes Elizabeth Lee, the youngest and first woman president of an automotive group; Eva Ma. Cutiongco-dela Paz, one of only five geneticists in the Philippines; and Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez of the INQUIRER, the only woman president of a media broadsheet company in the country.

The 10 awardees are all in

10 OUTSTANDING/ A10

WOMEN POWER: (L-R, standing) Elizabeth Lee, Hilly Anne Roa-Quiaoit, Alyssa Pelo-Alampay, PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Eva Ma. Cutiongco- de la Paz; (2nd row) Catherine Vistro-Yu, Ma. Corazon de Ungria (3rd row) Glecy Cruz-Atienza, Maria Ressa and Dina Ocampo.

RODEL ROTONI

Palace: No way we'll show Neda records to Senate

ACCUSING SOME SENATORS OF double standard, Malacañang yesterday rejected the Senate demand that it release records of the meetings of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) on the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

"It is double standard that certain senators apply when they demand of the Cabinet a breach of confidentiality that the Senate disallows for its own executive sessions," Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo said in a statement.

PALACE/ A10

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/10/11/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

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Police warn of terror attacks

Abu Sayyaf planning bombings after Ramadan, says PNP chief

By Alcuin Papa

ABU SAYYAF REBELS PLAN TO resume a bombing and terror campaign in Mindanao this week when the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan ends today, Philippine National Police Chief Director General Avelino Razon warmed yesterday.

Citing intelligence reports, Razon said that the terrorist group had plotted attacks against major military, police and civilian targets in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Davao and General Santos, which could include kidnapping of foreigners and ambushes.

"The ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) and their allied foreign jihadists, plus some rogue MILF members have taken advantage of the Ramadan to recuperate, replenish their logistic resources, recruit new members and plot their next move," Razon said in a statement.

He added that the two groups were merging their forces to mount the attacks.

The ASG, which has been linked to al-Qaida, is composed of former members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a large Muslim rebel group in peace talks with the government.

Razon said he had ordered "maximum security coverage" at possible terror targets, including critical infrastructure facilities, malls, transport hubs, and religious shrines, according to the statement.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared Friday a nationwide holiday for Eid al-Fitr, the festival to mark the end of Ramadan.

Razon said that based on a security assessment conducted by PNP and other intelligence agencies, Abu Sayyaf commanders and rebels met Aug. 26 near Barangay Guinanta in Al-Barka town on Basilan island "and drafted several plans to stage bombings in Zamboanga city and other nearby areas after … Ramadan."

Razon said he had also directed Chief Supt. Silverio Alarcio, chief of the PNP's Directorate for Operations, to order all police commanders to implement intelligence build-up and hardening of potential targets like economic key points, critical infrastructure, airports, seaports, bus terminals, and public places including places of religious convergence.

He added that police commanders must intensify security operations and police visibility in malls in Metro Manila, terminals of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) and other transport facilities.

Police will also conduct random mobile and fixed checkpoints, provide security coverage to power plants and telecommunications relay stations and information drives on bomb threat situations. *Wtih a report from AP*

'Not for condoms only'

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHERE WILL AN INCREASED family planning budget of over P1 billion go?

Answering critics from the Catholic Church and its pro-life allies, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the powerful committee on appropriations, said his proposed increase "will not be for condoms only, but for reproductive health programs in general."

Lagman proposed to increase almost six-fold the government's P180 million family planning allocation. As for specific budget details, this would be left to the proper implementing agency.

However, in an interview with INQUIRER Monday, Lagman said it would partially address the phase-out of contraceptive products by the country's chief donor, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Church and its allies are lobbying against the promotion of artificial contraception.

"I think they (the Church and other pro-life groups) are not fully informed of the real sentiment of the House," Lagman said.

Lagman said that while the budget increase would help fill the void to be left by the American agency, new supplies would also be shouldered by "other highly progressive countries" such as Germany.

Like the USAID, these companies would also provide products like condoms, pills, and intrauterine devices (IUDs), he said.

He said the matter was clear among his colleagues and that was why the increased family planning budget was not expected to face rough sailing.

"I think they are all cognizant of the population problem," he said.

"They know there is no bias whether for artificial or natural family planning. They know that the intention is really to create an environment of informed choice."

Under the "2008 Family Health Office Budgetary Requirements" submitted to Lagman's office, P120 million of the existing P180 million allocation for family planning would go to local government units.

A separate amount of P30 million was earmarked for towns and cities in the form of "training grant." "Advocacy" ate up P6 million of the current budget.

The family planning budget is one of two components under the government's women's health program. The other component—maternal health and safe motherhood—has an existing budget proposal of P924 million.

"Compared to mega projects which cost billions and billions of pesos," Lagman said, "reproductive health is very cheap, but it will have tremendous positive effects in the economy."

WHAT'S INSIDE

CRACKS SHOWING in Fil-Am solidarity vs 'Desperate' slur /A6

'WE WERE a simple family living in a decent house' /A4

CYBERED stinks, says DepEd critic /A4

Muslims end month of fasting

By Kristine L. Alave

FILIPINO MUSLIMS END A MONTH OF fasting and restraint as they celebrate Eid al-Fitr, a three-day holiday of thanksgiving and rejoicing, that begins either today or tomorrow.

Eid al-Fitr is calendared by the moon—if Muslims got a glimpse of the moon last night, the holiday begins come daybreak. Otherwise Eid al-Fitr will be marked starting Saturday.

It is a festival of great rejoicing among Muslims worldwide, marking the end of Ramadan or the month-long fasting and intense prayer among Muslims. For Muslims, the sacrifices during Ramadan remind them to be compassionate towards the less-fortunate.

Eid al-Fitr is one of the two major festivals in the Muslim calendar, the other being the Eid Al Adha, which marks the end of the hajj or pilgrimage.

Filipino Muslims, describing the significance of Eid al-Fitr to uninitiated Christians, usually explain it as a Christmas and a fiesta rolled into one, except without the alcohol and the traditional *lechon* (roast pig).

It begins with an early morning trip to the mosque for at least an hour of prayer. And then the festivities begin.

Shan Abdulwahid, University of the Philippines student council president, said children and adults look forward to Eid al-Fitr. They dress up in their best clothes, visit relatives, and eat plenty of food.

They greet one another "Happy Eid!" or "Eid Mubarak!"—"A blessed Eid!"—and give each other gifts, she added.

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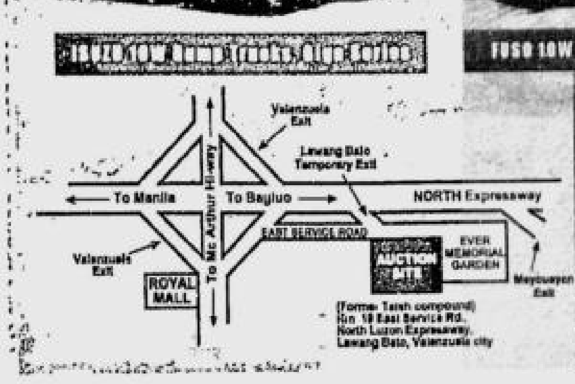

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‘Rehashed, recycled,’ prosecutor says of Erap bid vs conviction

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE ARGUMENTS RAISED BY CONVICTED plunderer ex-President Joseph Estrada were “rehashed and recycled” issues that were not enough to warrant an overturning of the guilty verdict meted out to him, state prosecutors said.

The Office of the Special Prosecutor yesterday filed a 103-page opposition to Estrada’s motion seeking to overturn the Sandiganbayan decision that found him guilty of plunder and sentenced him up to 40 years in prison.

“These are all recycled arguments. The defense is just going through the motions of filing a motion for reconsideration in order to [delay] making the decision final and executory,” the prosecution said.

Misinformed

Estrada’s lawyers filed the motion for reconsideration on Sept. 26, a day before the deadline set by the Special Division of the antigraft court.

The defense mainly stressed that the deposed president was not informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him, so that he ended up proving his innocence four times unlike the prosecution which only had to establish one of the four illegal acts constituting the plunder charge.

Estrada was convicted on two illegal acts that constituted the plunder charge against him—his systematic collection of P545 million in illegal gambling payoffs and his receipt of a P189-million commission for ordering the two state-run pension funds to buy shares from Belle Corp.

Familiar tack

“Feigning ignorance or failing to understand appears to have become an unfortunate habit of accused Estrada. This is not unfamiliar because this was the same tack [he] used in questioning the Plunder Law for alleged vagueness, although to no avail,” the prosecution said.

It also noted that Estrada was properly and lawfully informed of the cause of the accusation against him.

It said the ex-president had been arraigned during which a not-guilty plea was entered, which meant that the disgraced leader understood the cause of the accusation against him.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said the points put forward by the defense were a “non-issue,” having been disposed of by the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court in the past.

He said the high court, in several instances, upheld the sufficiency and validity of the amended information charging Estrada not with four separate counts but only one offense of plunder.

“There is only one charge or offense that constitutes four predicates or overt acts leading to the commission of plunder,” Villa-Ignacio said.

No three-day pass

Estrada yesterday again failed to persuade the Sandiganbayan to give him a three-day pass so he can stay by the sickbed of his ailing 102-year-old mother.

The court only allowed him the usual 10-hour court pass today instead of the three straight days that he requested so he could be with his mother who is in critical condition.

“Her condition has not improved since Estrada’s last visit on Oct. 8,” his lawyer Jose Flaminiano told the court.

Estrada also requested that he be allowed to spend Friday and Saturday nights at his Polk Street residence because of the limited facilities at the San Juan Medical Center and for security concerns.

In denying Estrada’s request, the antigraft court took heed of the prosecution’s objection.

Villa-Ignacio said that Estrada may be allowed to visit his mother each time he asked for humanitarian reasons but should not be allowed to stay at his house.

“There’s not one good reason why he should stay there,” Villa-Ignacio told reporters.

The police agreed to Estrada’s motion on condition that the planned hospital visits fall on weekdays.

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Soldiers, cops get lecture on ‘amparo’

By Nikko Dizon

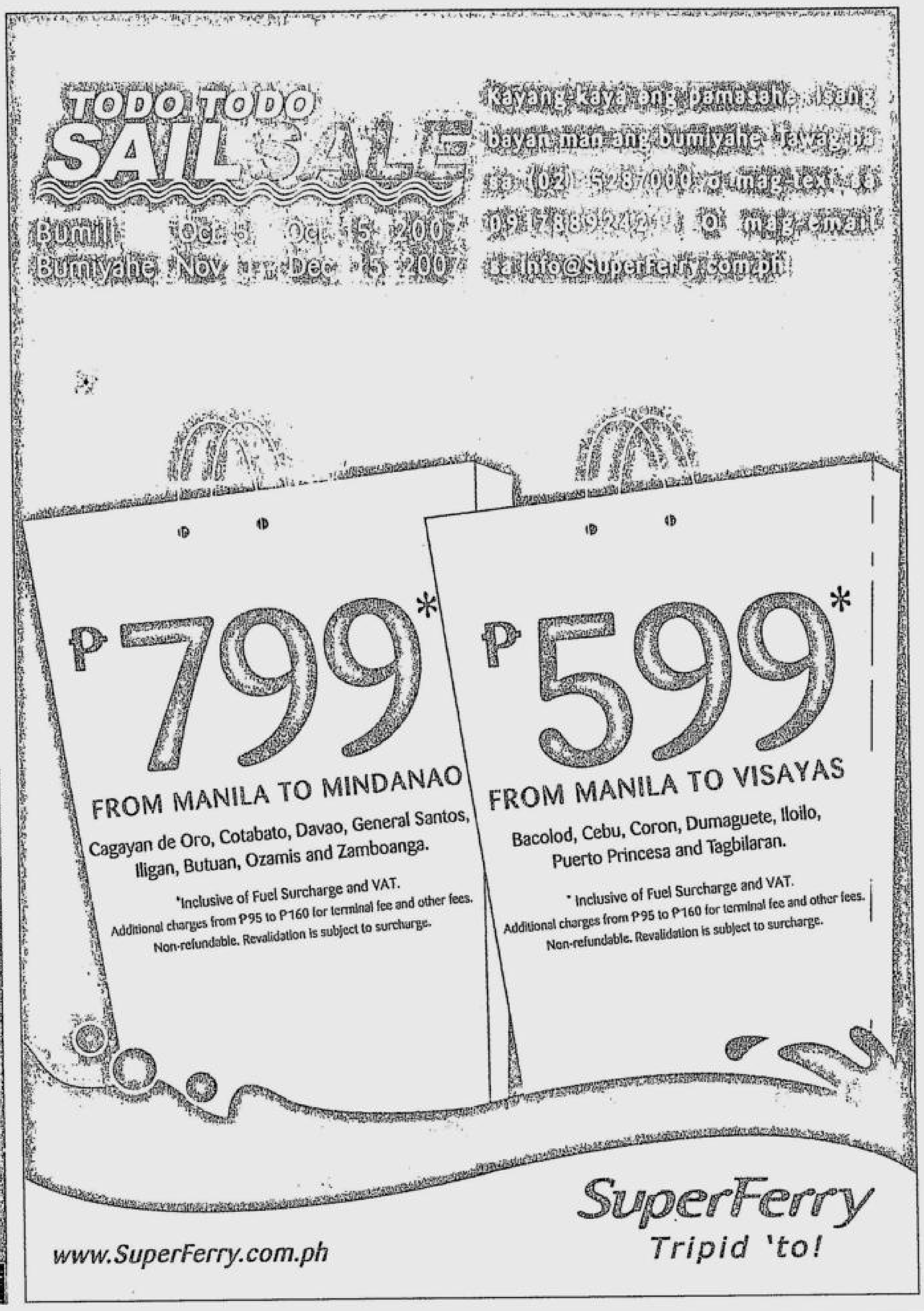
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE EDUARdo Nachura yesterday gave a lecture on the writ of amparo to defense, military, and police officials, drawing questions from the military leadership itself whether some provisions in the new rule was “fair” to authorities.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. also admitted that he was “apprehensive” about the Oct. 24 implementation of the writ of amparo, giving the AFP less than two weeks to cascade information and procedures of the new rule to the smallest military units in the field.

The writ of amparo formulated by the Supreme Court amid the unresolved extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances during the Arroyo administration is the remedy available to individuals whose right to life, liberty, and security are threatened.

“But we must do our best so the rules can reach the lowest levels. My only consolation is that the Armed Forces is not really here to commit extra legal actions and so I will bank on the goodness of our soldiers so there might even be no need to understand immediately the provisions of the writ of amparo,” Esperon told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo, where the lecture was held.

Nonetheless, Esperon said that soldiers must know that “ignorance of the law does not exempt you from the law.”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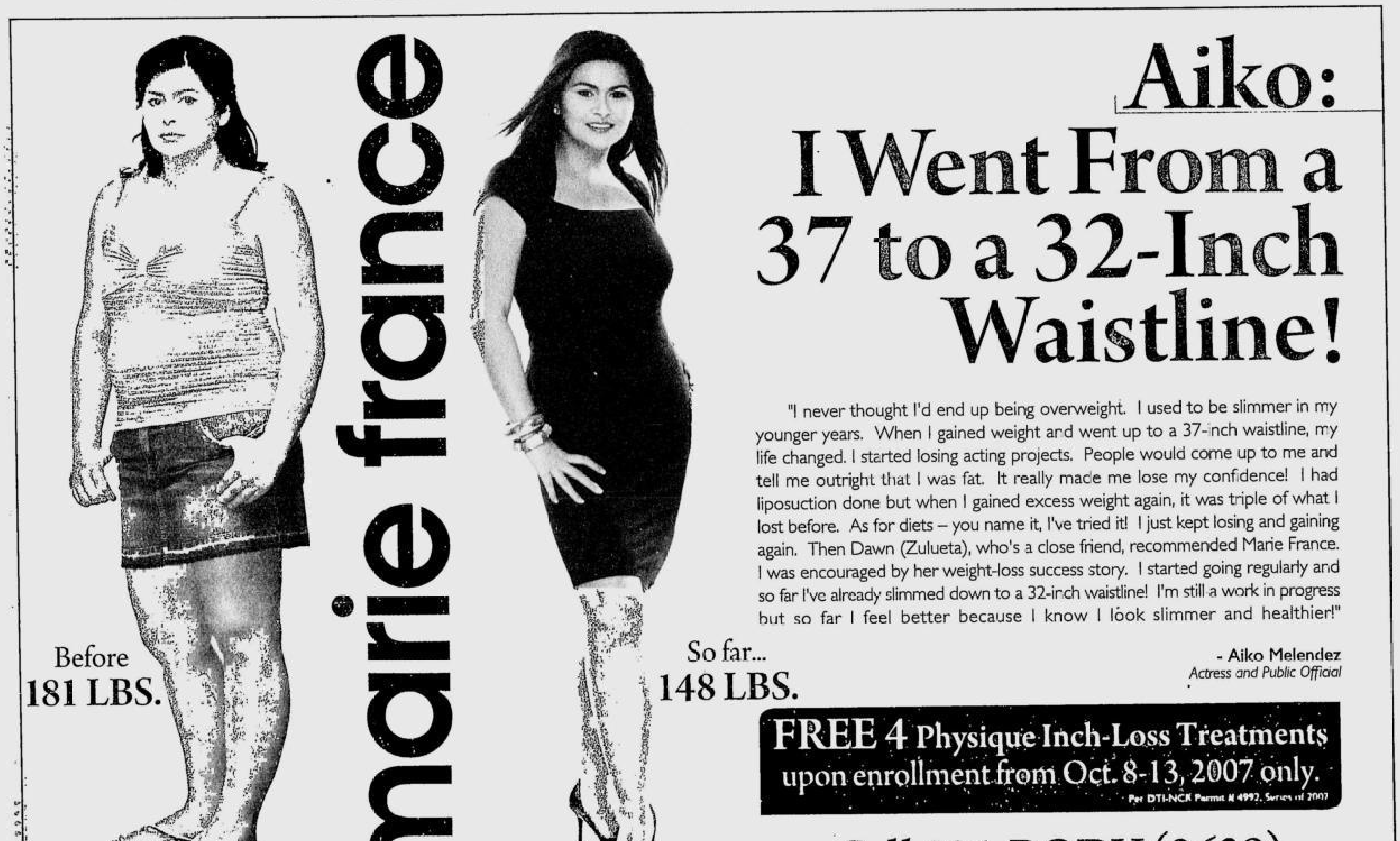
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ARLEGUI MANSION

'We were a simple family living in a decent house'

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN TARCILA Laperal-Mendoza would spend hours in her room at the imposing colonial mansion on Arlegui Street, lying on her bed and enjoying the time to herself.

The trees she planted in the once lush gardens are no more. The swimming pool where her nephews and nieces used to frolic around has become a murky, mossy pond, a "breeding place for mosquitoes and wild water lilies."

Before the 93-year-old matriarch and her family were driven out of their home in July 1975 by presidential guards of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the "Blair Mansion" was an imposing, superbly maintained home.

Despite the residence's impressive size (2,000 sq meters) and site (a 4,924.2 sq meter compound), however, "grand" would be the last word that Fortunata, Mendoza's daughter, would use to describe it.

Simple life

"We were a regular family living a simple life in a very decent house," Fortunata said in a phone interview from her residence in the US West Coast where the Mendoza family has been living for the past two years.

"This whole situation [the forcible ejection from the house] was a truly traumatic experience for the whole family, especially to my mother, who feels very bad about losing virtually everything we own," she said.

Fortunata, a practicing dermatologist in the US, said she did not really spend a long time in the mansion during her younger years as she lived in an apartment near the University of Santo Tomas where she was studying for a college degree.

She, however, vividly remembers that the manor, which Tarcila Mendoza inherited from her parents, housed many antique furniture pieces and priceless paintings which were part of the family's heirlooms.

Seized by Marcos

After the property was seized by the Marcos regime in 1975, the Arlegui house served as an adjunct of the Office of the President and later as the residence of Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos. It is now occupied by the finance and administration departments of the Office of the Press Secretary.

"Help me, help me," a distraught Mendoza said in a phone interview. "Please give me back the things which are really mine in the first place."

Mendoza cannot recall anymore how many bedrooms or bathrooms the mansion used to have nor can she remember her favorite antique piece.

"I am now 93 years old. How do you expect me to remember all of those?" she said.

Asked about the one thing she can never forget from the house, Mendoza said it was her favorite rocking chair that until now she wishes she could still have.

When asked to recount the memories, good or bad, from when she still lived there, Mendoza broke down, unable to speak, and passed the phone to her daughter.

In an Oct. 4, 2007 ruling, the Supreme Court nullified the decision of Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Vicente Hidalgo awarding Mendoza P1.48 million in rent and P143.6 million in just compensation.

The high tribunal ruled that the matriarch should instead be paid P20,000 a month in back rentals from the time her property was seized in July 1975 until the government vacates it, inclusive of a six-percent interest rate and attorney's fees.

This means the family would get only P7.52 million from the government for the use of the property for 376 months, or more than three decades.

"Where can you find a prime property in the Philippines, fit to be the official residence of several Presidents, that can be rented for only P20,000 a month?" said Fortunata.

"This decision should be reconsidered for being unfair, arbitrary and unconscionable," she said.

While Mendoza feels "vindicated" and "appreciative" of the high tribunal's decision affirming her ownership of the property, she believes she should be paid just compensation for the mansion as well as for lost business opportunities.

Market value

She said that appraisals done by several independent bodies placed the current market value of the Arlegui property at almost P600 million, against the Supreme Court's P2.38 million.

Mendoza said she should be paid at least P150 million and an additional P500 million as "rent plus interest and compensation for lost business opportunities."

But she stressed that she has no plans of ever returning to a place that was no longer hers.

She said she would not be able to bear to look at her former home in its pitiful state.

She might just become "melancholic," if not "heartbroken and severely depressed," because she will be constantly looking for the things which are no more, she said.

"Simply stated, there is nothing for her to go back to," Fortunata said.

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CyberEd stinks, says DepEd critic

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS made it his mission to critique government-issued textbooks has weighed in against the $460-million Cyber Education Project (CEP).

In a paper titled "In the Land of Mordor Where the Shadows Lie," Antonio Calipjo-Go said the CEP "exudes the stench of another illegitimate debt in the making" and should be cancelled.

"No First World country has adopted this kind of project and no studies have been conducted to determine the effectiveness of TV-based instruction in basic education," he said.

'Indecent haste'

Go, the owner and academic supervisor of the Marian School in Quezon City, warned against "politicians working in cahoots with big business" and some proponents of the CEP.

"When textbooks, that most basic of instructional materials, are not being delivered where they are needed and when the ideal student-to-textbook ratio of 1:1 has never been attained to this day, how can the promoters of the CEP convince us that they will be able to deliver the necessary infrastructure and equipment such as satellite dishes, computers and television sets to far-flung areas?" he said.

Go wondered why Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus was "manifesting such inordinate interest and enthusiasm over the CEP ... Why is there indecent haste in its implementation?"

Lapus, in a text message, declined to comment.

Lapus has called the CEP the "best thing to happen to Philippine education."

Fill the gaps

President Macapagal-Arroyo the other day pressed anew for the implementation of the CEP, saying it was an investment that the government should make to reduce poverty in the country.

Only last week, the President announced she was suspending the CEP in the wake of the controversy caused by allegations of bribery in the $329-million national broadband network deal with the China-based ZTE Corp.

The CEP aims to fill gaps in the education system by using satellite technology to deliver key learning concepts and other educational services to every school in the country through TV screens.

Batangas port posts hike

THE PORT OF BATANGAS posted a cash collection of P31.65 billion for September, over P1.42 billion higher than last year's collection for the same period.

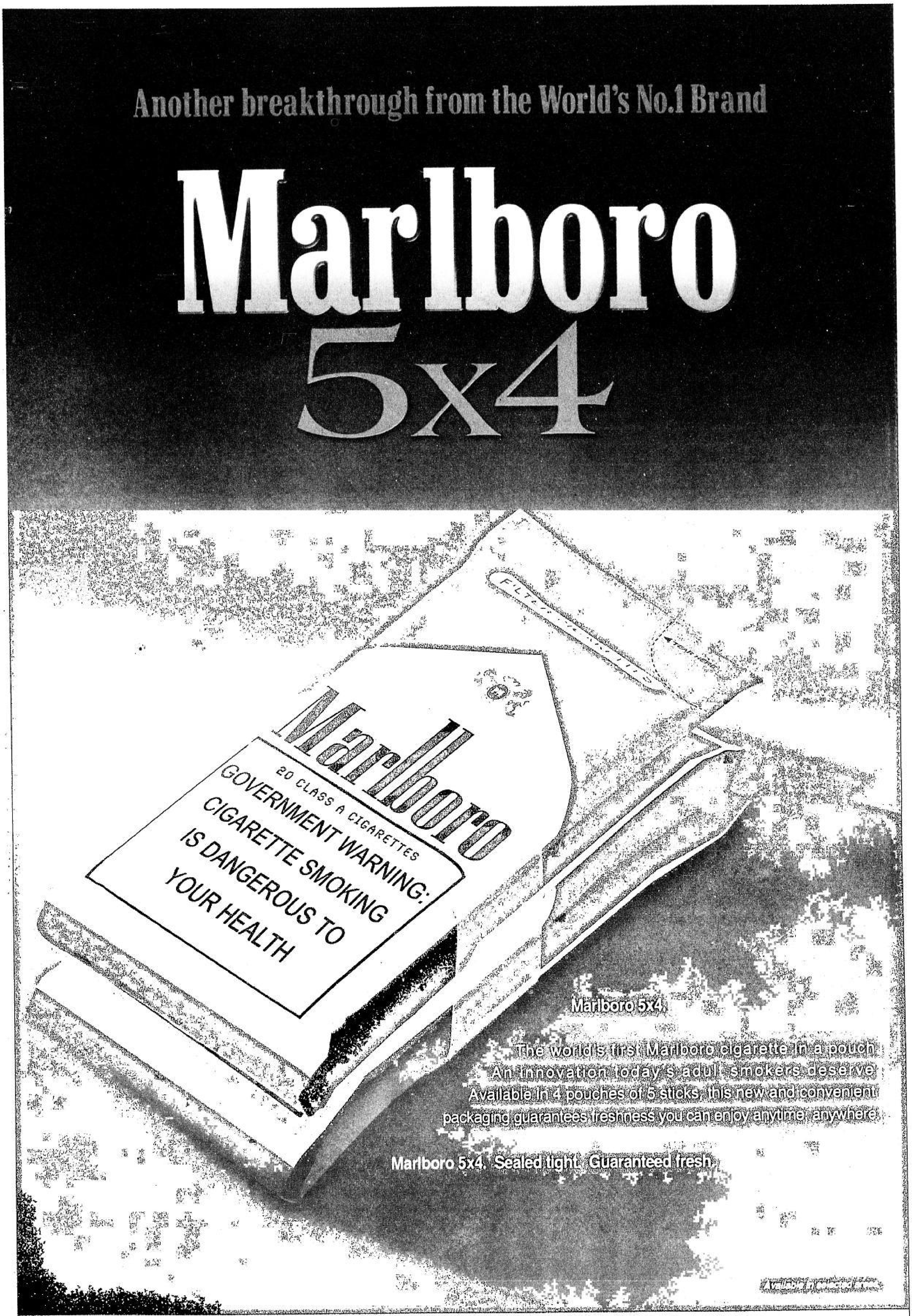
A report submitted to Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales showed a consistent monthly growth in collection from January to August this year, 3.25 percent or P10 million higher than last year's figures, according to a press statement from the Port.

P4.1B shy

The Port of Batangas is the only one among the major ports which posted growth last year, earning a P10 billion surplus.

However, Batangas is still P4.1 billion shy of its target, attributed primarily due to a whopping 57.7 percent increase in its target last year, which was higher than that of bigger containerized ports like Manila International Container Port (MICP) and Cebu.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales has requested the reduction of the agency's target revenue for next year citing the consistent decline in volume of imports and the appreciation of the peso against the dollar—the same reasons for the shortfall of Port of Batangas in its target collection this year. The targets are based on an exchange rate of P48 - $1 while the dollar is now at P45 and still is expected to strengthen against the greenback with the influx of dollar remittances in the coming holidays.



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Canada probers mum on Pinay's slay

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS yesterday said police investigation procedures in Canada was the reason behind the dearth of information in the case of Filipino housekeeper Jocelyn Dulnuan, who was found dead inside her employer's mansion in Mississauga, Ontario on Oct. 1

"The police has standard operating procedures that forbids them from disclosing details about the case until the investigation is finished," said executive director Crescente Relacion from DFA's office of the undersecretary for migrant workers affairs.

Relacion, in a press briefing, said investigators were so tight-lipped that DFA does not even know if Dulnuan died of gunshot or stab wounds. He added that the forensic examination of Dulnuan's remains were completed yesterday, after which her remains could be flown to the Philippines from Canada by late next week.

Earlier reports from Canada said the Philippine consulate pledged $5,000 or half of the amount needed to repatriate Dulnuan's remains to her family in Namulditan, Hingyon town in Ifugao. The rest of the amount was raised in a fundraising event at the Patricia Kemp Community Center in Vaugh, Ontario.

The 27-year-old stay-in caregiver left behind a 2-year-old daughter and a live-in partner.

Dulnuan was found dead in her basement quarters at a mansion in the affluent neighborhood. She was believed to have been killed after probably surprising burglars who may have entered the mansion.

Cracks showing in Fil-Am solidarity vs 'Desperate' slur

By Nimfa U. Rueda

LOS ANGELES—CRACKS HAVE emerged in the fragile alliance among Filipino Americans who launched a campaign against a perceived slur against Filipino doctors in a recent episode of "Desperate Housewives."

Reporting on the outcome of his meeting with a top ABC television network executive Wednesday, Jon Melegrito, spokesperson for the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (Naffaa), said he was successful in obtaining a commitment from the network to hire more Filipinos.

But other Fil-Am groups criticized Melegrito for not following up on key demands, including a broadcast apology, and instead opting to seek a partnership with ABC on the network's diversity programs.

"(Melegrito) brokered sweet deals that have nothing to do with the real issue," said Arnedo Valera, legal counsel for the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (Nafcon).

"We are not mendicants asking for jobs," said Valera. "We want a real apology from ABC."

Valera and other Nafcon leaders called for a boycott of ABC and its parent company, Walt Disney Co., along with more protest actions after reaching a deadlock on their demand for a broadcast apology at the Oct. 5 meeting with Robert Mendez, the network's senior vice president for diversity and talent development.

Melegrito held a second meeting with Mendez on Oct. 10 and then reported that he got a commitment from Mendez to give Filipino Americans "access to positions in ABC as writers, directors, producers, including an internship and training program."

"Our vision is to see more Fil-Ams occupying key positions in corporate media," Melegrito said in his report. "This is the only way we can feel confident that ugly episodes maligning us will not be repeated."

Valera described Melegrito's position on the issue as a "sellout" and bewailed what he described as "negotiating from a position of weakness, not strength." Valera said he was shocked when Melegrito earlier asked him to cancel protest actions while a dialog with ABC was pursued.

Rodel Rodis, a California-based lawyer who leads a progressive group within Naffaa, said he was "disappointed" with Melegrito, who he said "fell for very minor scraps."

Rodis and Valera agreed that Melegrito's position does not represent the sentiments of many Filipinos who overwhelmingly support calls for continued protest actions against ABC.

'Doing business in China' seminar

HONSON TO

JOHN GU

THE FEDERATION OF Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII), the largest organization of Filipino businessmen with Chinese heritage in the Philippines, and KPMG Manabat, Sanagustin and Co., recently awarded the Best Accounting Firm of the Year 2007, will present a business seminar on "Emerging Markets: Doing Business in China" next week.

The discussion is scheduled on Oct. 16 at the Federation Center in Binondo, Manila, according to organizers.

Guest speaker for the event is Honson To, Transaction Services leader of KPMG's Financial Advisory Services practice in the Central and Eastern China region, who will arrive from Shanghai to address the 200-strong FFCCCII delegation and guests who are attending the conference.

KPMG's Global Insurance practice was awarded Best Accounting Firm of the Year at the Reactions Global Awards Dinner ceremony in New York in August. Every year Reactions, the leading monthly insurance magazine, polls its readers on which firms, deals, initiatives and industry figures are performing above the competition and are the leaders in their field.

A second resource person for the seminar is John Gu, a partner of KPMG China, who will assist in discussing the legal framework and the intricacies of doing business in China including transfer pricing, repatriation of profits and taxes.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2522 Series of 2007

Rights of 40 detained Army soldiers violated, says Biazon

BIAZON

By Dona Pazzibugan and Nikko Dizon

SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON HAS ACCUSED the Armed Forces of violating the rights of 40 Army enlisted personnel who have been detained since last year for their alleged involvement in the February 2006 attempted coup but have not been charged until now.

Biazon, chair of the Senate defense committee, also took issue with the military leadership for allegedly not giving 28 detained officers—former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, former Army Scout Rangers commandant Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Medal of Valor awardee Col. Ariel Querubin—the opportunity to rebut the evidence against them during the preliminary investigation.

Biazon, a former military chief, visited the 28 Marine and Army officers and 40 Army soldiers on Oct. 8 at their detention quarters in Camp Campin, the headquarters of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division in Tanay, Rizal.

No charges

"The 40 enlisted personnel continue to be placed in confinement without investigation and appropriate charges for any crime" in violation of the Articles of War, Biazon said in an Oct. 9 letter to Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

The 28 officers are facing court-martial for mutiny and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman for alleged involvement in the plot to bring down the government in February 2006. The trial started in December 2006 but the officers have yet to be arraigned.

Yesterday, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. indicated that the fate of the 40 enlisted men would depend on the outcome of the case against the 28 officers.

"Do you discharge the enlisted personnel when the officers have not yet even been arraigned? A good timing would be to arraign the officers first and decide what punishment would be fit for the offenses committed by the enlisted personnel, because they were simply led to doing it by some officers," Esperon told reporters.

'Dilatory actions'

Esperon said the 28 officers have been "taking dilatory actions" to delay the court proceedings, such as availing of peremptory challenges, or finding reasons why a person should not sit in the court-martial panel.

He said the enlisted men were supposed to go to Edsa on Feb. 24, 2006 from their field assignments as their officers declared a withdrawal of support from the government.

The enlisted men could face court-martial or be slapped with administrative sanctions, said Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres.

Some of the soldiers have been detained since July 24 last year, while others were brought to Tanay last August and October.

Torres cited Article of War 70 as the operative law in the continued confinement of the soldiers despite there being no charges being filed against them.

According to the provision, the person, being subject to military law, shall be restricted to his barracks or detention until their cases are resolved, Torres said.

But he said the soldiers were still receiving their monthly wages.

Biazon said the court-martial of the 28 officers did not seem to conform with Article 71 of the Articles of War and the Manual for Courts Martial.

Reversed recommendation

He said that under the law, before a charge is referred for trial a "thorough and impartial investigation" should be conducted to give the accused officers the "full opportunity to confront witnesses against [them]."

He cited the recommendation of the pretrial investigation panel headed by Col. Al Perreras to dismiss the charges against most of the officers.

Esperon's Staff Judge Advocate, however, reversed the panel's conclusion and recommended a court-martial.

"The spirit of Article 71 which is impartiality was overlooked. What could have been done is to conduct another pre-trial investigation," said Biazon.

The senator also urged Teodoro to set a clear policy on how the medical needs of the detained officers and soldiers are to be seen to.

He said the medical center at the camp usually lacked the needed medicines and the detainees say obtaining clearance to go to a civilian hospital for check-ups takes too long.

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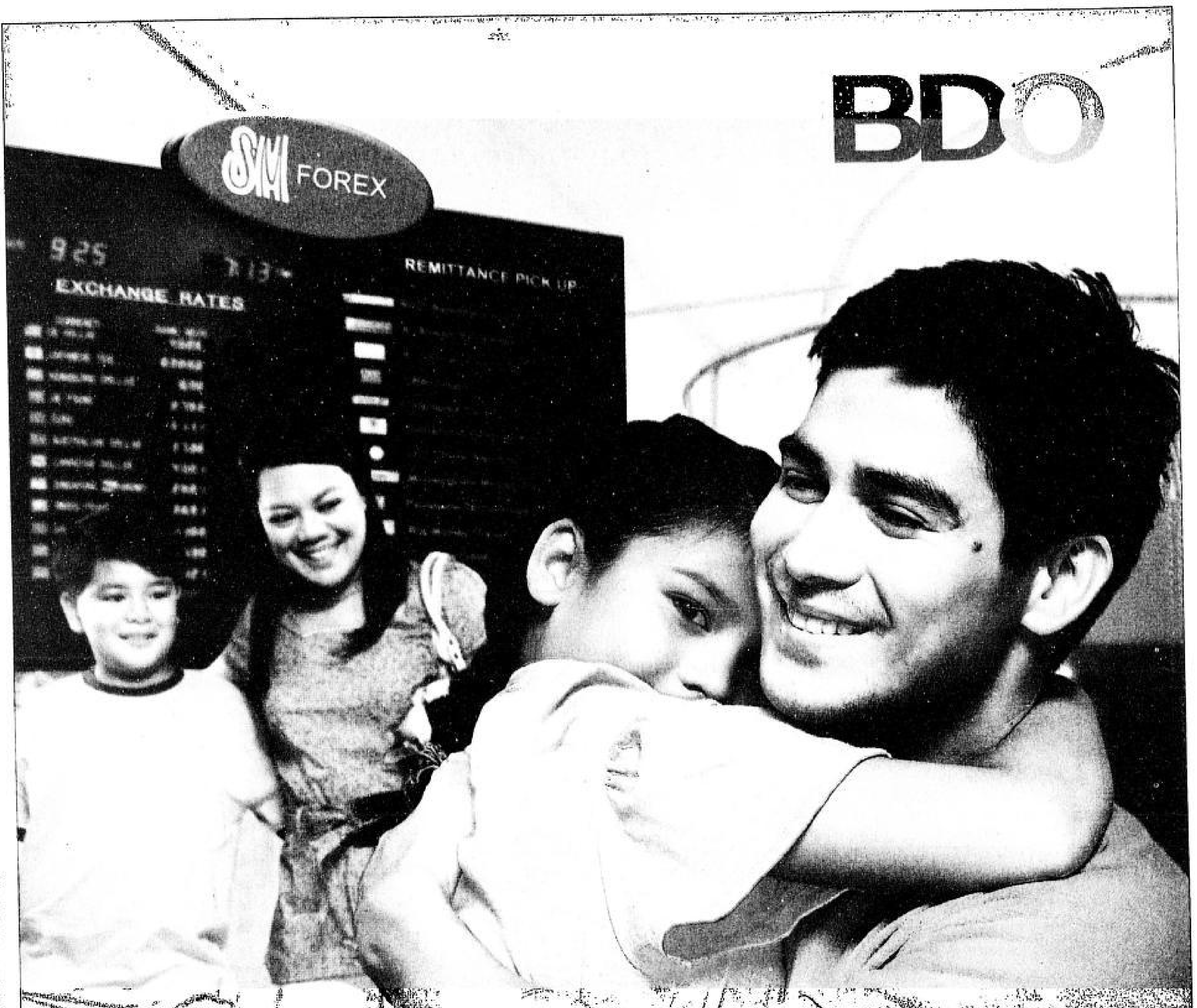

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9th RICARDO E. FERNANDO PROFESSORIAL LECTURE

by

Prof. Erol Cerasi

(Professor Emeritus at the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem)
on the "Story Behind the β-Cell"

at Seven o'clock in the morning of October 13, 2007
Isla Ballroom EDSA Shangri–La Hotel Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

MESSAGES

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc.** as you hold the ***9th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture on Diabetes.***

I commend your Institute for your commitment to enhance the knowledge and skills of our medical professionals in the treatment and control of diabetes and in the protection of high-risk individuals from the disease.

I have no doubt that this lecture, with its main topic, *"The Story Behind the Beta Cell,"* will give our medical practitioners the opportunity to discuss current issues and developments in the treatment of diabetes which will be all for their good and the advancement of the profession.

May your association remain a partner of government in reaching out to the most vulnerable sectors of our society as you continue your noble mission of saving human lives.

Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President,
Republic of the Philippines

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. on the holding of their 9th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture.

May you continue to persevere in your work and join our efforts to improve healthcare services that will promote higher standards of work ethics for a more effective delivery of health services to our people.

The Department of Health extends its congratulations to the participants. Let us work together in providing accessible, qualify and affordable health care to all.

I wish you success in all your future endeavors.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health
Department of Health

WE NEED TO MOVE NOW

Type 2 diabetes is on the rampage worldwide! It has not spared rich and prosperous countries. Neither has it passed poor developing countries. There probably are 6-8 Millions diabetics in the Philippines, maybe more. Most probably more!

Some 200 new diabetics appear in the Philippine scene everyday! And there are 20-30 Million ***first degree relatives*** waiting to reinforce the current number. Many of them will be joining the national statistics in the next 25 years unless some some radical is done before that time.

The advantage of targeting first degree relatives is very simple. You don't have to screen to locate them! No fancy test! And they are the ones who bear the early marks of future type 2 diabetics:

= loss of oscillations of β cell insulin release at FBS (vein) levels of 90 mg %. (the most opportune time for primordial intervention)

= loss of 1st and 2nd phases of insulin release at FBS (vein) levels of 90 mg %.

= loss of 50 % β cell mass and appearance of hepatic insulin resistance at FBS (vein) levels of 98 mg %.

= appearance of elevated FBS (100 mg %) which many would still call IFG – a "too late" stage of recognition!!!

How do we propose to control this pandemic? By engaging in primordial preemptive strikes on 1st degree relatives of known DM2. Including the children still in the cribs! Just this will fill up our hands with massive opportunities to quell the rising tide of diabetes in our land. We have sufficient armory to fall back on.

Serious lifestyle changes, diet and exercise.
- "Non – apoptotic sulfonylureas"
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- Incretins
- Thiazolidinediones
- α glucosidase inhibitors
- ACE inhibitors and ARBs

All potential providers of agents which if used discriminately may prevent β cell deterioration or may even bring back the β cell from its apoptotic end.

Attitudes need to be changed radically. From looking at diabetes from a hyperglycemic point of view to accepting the non-hyperglycemic stage of diabetes as a reality at which time more can be done in terms of prevention than waiting for IFG and overt DM2 (too late stages).

It is time the country decides to separate from the herd and settle for simple and more effective *early* ways of controlling the epidemic!

Ricardo E. Fernando, MD, FPCP, FPSEM
Chairman and President
UERMMMC-ISDFI
Marikina City, 2007

It is with great pride and pleasure that I welcome you to the ***9th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture.***

Today, we celebrate the life and work of yet another exemplary physician, teacher, and researcher. As we listen to his lecture on The Story Behind the Beta Cell, we do hope to gain new knowledge which can be translated into clinical practice. This will definitely benefit the patients we are committed to serve.

We have prepared a rather busy schedule for you this year, which begins early this morning with a load of information on Incretin Mimetics and to be followed later today by another symposium on DPP4 Inhibitors. Afterwards, we expect another symposium dealing with the more clinical issues of managing cardiometabolic risk factors.

I invite you to listen to this landmark lecture and to the other symposia. Actively interact with them as well. We will learn more from each other by sharing our issues /problems, as well as solutions. I also invite you to interact with our sponsors in their booths which have been designed to be educational and updating.

Elizabeth Ann Fernando-Catindig
Elizabeth Ann Fernando-Catindig, MD, MS
Convention Chair
UERMMMC-ISDFI

TEN-POINT AGENDA TO "BEAT THE ODDS" IN SIX YEARS UNDER THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION

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– President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

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A – Automated elections
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T – Terminate the MILF and NPA conflicts
H – Heal the wounds of EDSA
E – Electricity and water for all barangays
O – Opportunities for 10 million jobs
D – Decongest Metro Manila
DS – Develop Clark and Subic

Programme

October 13, 2007
9th REF Professorial Lecture
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

MORNING SESSION

7:00 am Breakfast Symposium:
Incretin Therapy: Glucose Control & Beyond
Supported by CME grant from Eli Lilly Phils
Prof. Augusto Litonjua, MD, FPCP
Prof. Ricardo E. Fernando, MD, FPCP
Moderator: **Ernesto Ang, MD, MS. FPCP**

9:30 am Opening of Exhibits

9:40 am Coffee Break / Booth Visit

10:00 am Opening Ceremonies

Welcome Remarks
Elizabeth Ann F. Catindig M.D., M.S.
Convention Chair,
9th REF Professorial Lecture

10:15 am Introduction of the 9th REF Professorial Lecturer
Araceli A. Panelo, MD, MS, FPCP
Executive Director, UERMMMC-ISDFI

10:30 am **The 9th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture:**
Prof. Erol Cerasi, MD
"The Story Behind the β-Cell"

11:30 am Awarding of Medal

EDITHA ARCEO-DALISAY, MD, MS, FPCP
EMCEE

AFTERNOON SESSION

12:00 pm Lunch Symposium
"Sitagliptin: The New Piece in the Puzzle of Type 2 DM Management"
Supported by CME grant from MSD
Prof. Ricardo E. Fernando, MD,FPCP
Prof. Zachary Bloomgarden, MD

2:00 pm The Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Challenge
Supported by CME grant from Pfizer
Fatma Tiu, MD
Helen Ong Garcia, MD
Lenora Fernandez, MD
Arsenio Roxas, MD

4:00 pm Coffee Break / Booth Visit
4:15 pm Business Meeting
1. ISDFI AA
Rima T. Tan, MD, MS, FPCP
President, UE-ISDFI Alumni
2. CENTER FOR DIABETES CARE
Leorino Sobrepeña, MD, MS, FPCP and
Mr. Marco Bautista

5:30pm Closing Remarks
Editha Arceo-Dalisay MD, MS, FPCP
Chair, Scientific Committee

MARCELO A. LIM, MD, MS
EMCEE

Evening Session

7:00 pm ***9th Annual Homecoming & Fellowship Night***
Agnes T. Cruz, MD, MS, FPCP, FPSN
Edwin E. Liwanag, MD, MS, FPAMS

Theme: **ISDFI GOES RETRO**

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Kidnapped Pinoy back soon from Nigeria

By Jerome Aning

ALBERTO BACANI Sr., the Filipino worker held captive for 12 days by militants in Nigeria will be reunited with his family in Manila tomorrow, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Crescente Relacion, executive director of the office of the undersecretary for migrant workers' affairs, said the kidnapping would be included in a "situation report" for Nigeria that would be sent to the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency.

"It would be up to POEA if they wanted to revise the partial ban being implemented for Nigeria. [The deployment policy] may be changed in the next few days," Relacion told reporters in a briefing.

The partial ban covered only overseas Filipino workers previously employed in Nigeria, who are allowed to return only if they were employed by the same company and would be working in the same site.

Relacion said the voluntary repatriation program for OFWs in Nigeria—numbering 2,820 as of June 30 this year—continues. He said DFA has assisted the return of about 53 OFWs since the tension began in the southern states of Nigeria.

Interviewed on dzRH radio Wednesday evening, Bacani's wife Nenita thanked the government for securing her husband's safe release and said they were eagerly awaiting his return to his hometown of Rosario, La Union.

"I thank the Lord for helping my husband, as well as DFA staff and all those who helped in the prayer support for our family," she said in Tagalog.

Relacion said as far as the DFA was concerned, no ransom was paid to the abductors, whom he said were a "splinter group" of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, a militant organization responsible for a string of attacks on business firms in Nigeria's southern states.

"We were told that the Nigerian security services pressured the kidnappers to free Bacani," the DFA official said.

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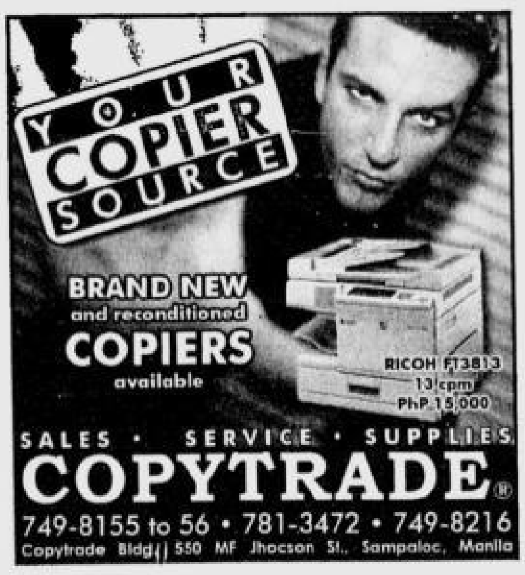

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PSALM POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

for the

Procurement of Services for E-Document Management System for PSALM Corporation

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of FOUR MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php 4,500,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for the following Procurement of Services for E-Document Management System for PSALM Corporation:

Schedule	Description
I	Document Management System
II	Document Digitization

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Services for E-Document Management System for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) PER SCHEDULE shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) PER SCHEDULE who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php 4,000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
6. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 23 October 2007 at 2:00 PM at the 6th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 05 November 2007, 2:00 PM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC), Bank guarantee (1 ½% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2 ½% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 05 November 2007 at 02:30 PM at the 6th floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
HELENA C. TOLENTINO
7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telefax (02)8930699
e-mail: *hctolentino@psalm.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) HELENA C. TOLENTINO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI--Oct. 12, 2007)

PSALM POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

for the

Procurement of Scanners and Hard Disk for EMC CX-300 ITB Usable Disk Space for PSALM Corporation

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php1,500,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for the following Procurement of Scanners and Hard Disk for EMC CX-300 ITB Usable Disk Space for PSALM Corporation:

Schedule	Description
I	Scanners
II	Hard Disk for EMC CX-300 ITB Usable disk Space

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Scanners and Hard Disk for EMC CX-300 ITB Usable Disk Space for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB**. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) PER SCHEDULE shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) PER SCHEDULE who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.
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(Sgd.) HELENA C. TOLENTINO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI--Oct. 12, 2007)

10 outstanding women hailed including PDI CEO/

From page A1

their 40s. Some are mothers (like Prieto-Romualdez, who brought her three handsome boys—four, if one counts her husband Philip—to the awarding ceremony), and some are single, but all were recognized for excellence in their work and its impact on society.

"We don't mind [mentioning] our batches, do we, ladies? Because we're all independent," said moderator Lorna Patajo-Kapunan.

The TOWNS sisters, giggling girlishly, replied: "Yes!"

The award has prestige because aside from a stringent nomination process, it is given only every three years, said TOWNS Foundation president Emy Villar.

Return to roots

Some 84 pioneering women professionals have been recognized by TOWNS since its inception in 1974, and all awardees are incorporated as members of the foundation.

"A lot have gone abroad, but they are doing some work for our country there. Still, we want them to continue their service here," Villar said.

The act of returning to one's roots marks the lives of two other awardees—broadcast journalist Maria Ressa, who resigned from her post as CNN Southeast Asia bureau chief to work in her motherland, and geologist Alyssa Peleo-Alampay, who gave up her US permanent-resident status to return to the Philippines under the "Balik-Scientist" program of the Department of Science and Technology.

Ressa, now ABS-CBN senior vice president, turned emotional when she accepted the award, saying the recognition had "great personal meaning" to her.

"It's Cheche, she's my role model, *eh*," Ressa said as she wiped her tears after being introduced by previous awardee Cheche Lazaro (of "Probe Team" fame). "You know, I don't get nervous, but this is really weird ... She's really the reason I'm back in the Philippines."

Ressa said her goal for the local media was to set high standards and ethics. She said this would "develop the nation's minds."

Climate change research

Peleo-Alampay, who holds a doctorate in earth science at the University of California, was acknowledged for her accomplishments in climate change research and earth history, and applying these to a country prone to natural disaster.

Education awardee Dina Ocampo continues to help children with dyslexia through Worldlab School Inc., which remains the Philippines' only school specializing in learning disabilities.

Hilly Ann Maria Roa-Quiaoit of Cagayan de Oro City, the "mother of giant clams," was recognized for helping conserve endangered marine life. She was honored for her efforts in "culturing, producing and reseeding clams all over the country" to prevent the species' extinction.

Math professor Catherine Vistro-Yu was cited for raising the standards of the "deteriorating" teaching of math in the country.

"We teachers get flak for the poor achievements of students in math. But both [female] and male teachers are really working to create a framework, which is a big step in standardizing math teaching," she said.

DNA analysis

Microbiologist Corazon de Ungria was awarded for spearheading researches on the application of DNA analysis in crime investigation—and its impact on both victims and suspects who may have been given unfair treatment in the judicial system.

"We're now working on the creation of judicial guidelines for the use of DNA analysis in the courts," she said. "Hopefully, it will be out by the end of the year. [The importance of this is like] in the United States, over 150 cases were overturned due to DNA evidence that came as part of a post-conviction analysis."

Cutiongco-dela Paz highlighted the importance of genetics, among other fields of medicine, in preventing, detecting and curing diseases that "all virtually have a genetic base."

Glecy Cruz Atienza, theater artist and professor at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, was credited for turning theater into a "pedagogical force" to shape the lives of young people, making them

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Manny's new fi
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From page A1

Eagle from extinction.

The boxing icon bared his plans to help preserve one of the world's rarest and most powerful birds after he was showered with red, white and blue confetti at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Pacquiao, 28, fresh from his second conquest of Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas, flew in early yesterday to a subdued, less festive welcome after a planned motorcade in Manila was scuttled.

Mayor Alfredo Lim is going after Pacquiao for his failure to pay P120,000 in concessionaires' fees for operating the Knockout Bar, recently demolished along with other unsightly eateries at the edge of Manila Bay that the boxer's former patron and erstwhile Manila chief executive Lito Atienza had established.

Pacquiao denied the charge—a denial affirmed by Atienza, Lim's bitter political rival.

Now the environment secretary, Atienza nevertheless managed a grandiose red carpet welcome for Pacquiao. He motored quietly to the main office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Quezon City after a similar warm welcome in Malacañang led by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Thank you for your support and prayers. I got lucky again," a smiling Pacquiao, clad in a striped white polo shirt, told the throng of well-wishers from a makeshift stage on the steps of the DENR building.

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Palace to Senate
minutes of Ned

From page A1

Saludo said the deliberations "like the identities of the unnamed media sources, must remain confidential."

The Senate will resume on Oct. 25 its investigation of the $329-million contract for the NBN project awarded to China's ZTE Corp. President Macapagal-Arroyo scrapped the deal on Oct. 2 amid allegations of bribery, bullying, and overpricing.

For national interest

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said deliberations and debates in the executive branch that lead to the formulation of policies and decisions were deemed private and thus, cannot be divulged in congressional hearings.

"They remain to be covered by executive privilege for reasons of national interest," Ermita said in a statement.

Ermita and Saludo said the same principle applied to deliberations in the Supreme Court and even Congress.

The two Palace officials issued the statements to defend Neda Director General Augusto Santos who is refusing to give to the Senate minutes of the closed-door Neda meetings that led to the approval of the NBN project.

Senators are threatening to file contempt charges against Santos.

The lawmakers want to know why Santos' predecessor, Romulo Neri, endorsed the NBN project even after he rejected the alleged bribe offered by then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

Policy turnaround

Invoking executive privilege under Executive Order No. 464, Neri refused to talk about the role of the President in approving the ZTE deal.

The Senate also wants to know why

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ve try to expose anomalies lia, good news like [the vards] is what we are also lvocate," she also said.

the previous TOWNS present at the ceremony UIRER columnists Rina ivid and Cathy Babao nd broadcast journalists o and Ces Oreña Drilon.

ght: eagle

lemark now is eagle. Be- eagle is endanger (sic) added, eliciting chuckles yees. "Let's protect it, and dwindling population."

cañang, the President uiao for unifying the na- is victory.

ole nation celebrates yet tory in boxing for our na- np," Ms Arroyo said.

n led reporters in inter- acquiao, who said he to fight every day if it an getting Filipinos to- ne nation.

himself gave a preview of sudden interest in envi- protection when he intro- to the crowd as "environ- in addition to being the mp."

, an endorser of San r and a host of other prod- e had even asked Nike to re of the eagle, instead of ny apparel that he'd be public.

said Pacquiao was serious ew advocacy and had even an initial P100,000 for the Eagle Foundation for the n of the bird that preys on mong other meats.

ker, considered by Ring s the world's best "pound l" fighter, indicated he oining Atienza's campaign the environment, nurture t of eagles, and raise awareness about these issues.

Green plans

"I'll help in the best way I can. I'll go to places that need to be saved from degradation, and campaign against illegal logging to protect our forests, and plant trees," Pacquiao later said in a briefing.

Toward the end of the briefing, Atienza handed Pacquiao a poster and a pin bearing the picture of an eagle.

Pacquiao said he wasn't retiring yet because he realized that each of his fight had been helping "unite people" in a nation deeply divided and polarized by political controversies.

"My fervent prayer to God is to make me an instrument of unity and understanding. Help me spread unity and love," he said.

The boxing champ was joined in the briefing by Atienza and his son Ali, and later on, by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Show biz and reality TV

While preparing for his next fight, Pacquiao said he would also pursue his plan to enter college, rejoin show biz and star in a reality TV show. *(See story above.)*

"Prioritize your studies. Wherever you go, if you're educated, it's easy to land a job. I'm not encouraging you go into a boxing. I want you to finish school first," he said when asked for his message to the youth.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Tarra Quismundo

Manny, Ara star in new movie

By Nikko Dizon

PLAYING MANNY PACquiao's love interest in his new movie is sexy actress Ara Mina, who was romantically linked to the boxer a couple of months before his Las Vegas bout against Mexican boxer Marco Antonio Barrera.

Both Pacquiao and the actress denied the rumors.

The rumors and being a communist rebel in a movie notwithstanding, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said that Pacquiao is an "inspiration" to the Armed Forces.

"The fight was dubbed 'Will to Win.' If that motto sticks to every soldier, for that alone, (Pacquiao) deserves the promotion," Esperon said.

So, the Philippine Army yesterday promoted reservist Pacquiao from technical sergeant to master sergeant for bringing honor not only to the Armed Forces of the Philippines but to the entire country for beating Barrera.

Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres, Army spokesperson, said the promotion took effect Oct. 7, the day Pacquiao scored a unanimous decision over Barrera in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao was enlisted into the Army reserve force in April last year.

Esperon said the promotion was the prerogative of the Army chief, Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, but said it was well-deserved.

It does not even matter if Pacquiao plays a communist rebel in his upcoming movie "Anak ng Kumander," Esperon said.

"Let's separate the movies from real life," he explained, adding that Pacquiao is simply acting in a film.

Esperon said he found it interesting that Pacquiao, who arrived today from the United States, would be portraying such a role in the movie.

"But that's the fact of being in show biz. Sometimes, you are a good person but you're given an ugly role," Esperon said.

Pacquiao himself is producing the movie which will be released as a Manila Film Festival entry in December.

Puno: Garcia trying to drive a wedge between Lakas and Kampi

By Alcuin Papa

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALDO Puno yesterday said Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia was trying to "drive a wedge" between the ruling Lakas-CMD led by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), which Puno chairs.

Puno said Garcia's accusation that he had masterminded the filing of a deliberately weak impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo was a case of sour grapes—a purported result of the Cebu lawmaker's failed attempt to wrest the speakership from De Venecia.

"He (Garcia) is still sourgraping from the last speakership fight. I am wondering now why ... they are training their guns at me," Puno, who also serves as Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs, said in a phone interview.

He said he had not spoken with Garcia.

Puno said Garcia's statements, which were reported in the INQUIRER yesterday, were meant to muffle his support for De Venecia and were part of "an elaborate scheme to create confusion in the House."

"*Panggugulo lang* (It's only meant to confuse). The objective might be to drive a wedge between Lakas and Kampi. I am a target, probably because I am advocating unity [between] the House and the Speaker—something which they are not happy with," he said.

According to Puno, there have been past attempts to pit himself and the President on one side, and De Venecia on the other. He said that despite these, the ties between Ms Arroyo and the Speaker remained as strong as ever.

"Would it benefit the President if the Speaker is weakened, and, for that matter, would the Speaker gain anything if the President is weakened?" he said.

Kampi's coalition with De Venecia's Lakas "remains solid," he said. "We will not allow these mischievous claims to destroy that."

Puno reiterated that any move to impeach Ms Arroyo would be "an exercise in futility" in the House.

He said that "at best," the House minority had only "30 or so" members—"and you need 80 votes to impeach."

As for Kampi, Puno said the party remained united.

"Out of our 53 members, I would say there are a maximum of around nine people [who are dissenting]," he said, adding that Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis called a meeting of Kampi members the other day without his knowledge.

"Within Kampi, only Solis and the others are actually pursuing the neck of the Speaker," he said.

Solis is part of a group in Kampi that had backed Garcia's failed bid for the speakership.

Puno dismissed Solis' calls to have him investigated in connection with lawyer Roel Pulido's filing of the impeachment complaint.

He said the only time he met Pulido was at a recent television interview.

"He is an enemy of the administration," Puno said of Pulido. "How can we, a party which is firmly behind the President, have anything to do with someone whose objective is to remove President Arroyo?"

Puno also said that contrary to speculation, there was no need to "immunize" Ms Arroyo from impeachment through Pulido's complaint because of the administration coalition's hold on the majority.

"Immunity is already there by virtue of the preponderance of votes in Congress. That's the best immunization from impeachment." *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

e: No, we'll not show a's meetings on NBN

rnment made a complete poli- round on the NBN project, as supposed to be built using ather than government money.

likened the Neda debates on project to deliberations of the rt before it issues a ruling.

lecisions of the Supreme Court nsidered public document in nd are posted on its website eliberations of the justices that e final decision are not public , and cannot be inquired into," itive secretary said.

s also true when the Senate o executive session in which ns are also considered "not nature," Ermita said.

ternal deliberations, debates tions of Cabinet members can elled to bè disclosed, Cabinet will be unduly hampered in heir frank, full, and free ex- f views in the shaping of deci- licies and actions affecting the n all these, the national inter- ld be given prime considera- mita said.

liscussion

maintained that executive privi- he Cabinet, Congress and the Court was provided for by law to ee-flow and frank discussion.

resident, Senate and Supreme not commit a crime when they xecutive privilege, according o.

same secrecy cloaks media who would not speak freely if ntities and off-the-record re- ould be made public," he said.

said that meetings of the Ne- tment Coordinating Commit- covered by executive privi- ing closed-door Cabinet dis- ."

"The Cabinet fully supports transparency and dialogue on policy and governance matters, even as we abide by laws that provide for executive privilege in top level proceedings of the three branches of government," he said.

Behind closed doors

If the President's men were wary of appearing at a public hearing, they can tell all behind closed doors in an executive session, according to Sen. Francis Escudero.

Based on Supreme Court decisions and the opinion of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Escudero said executive privilege could only be used if it would affect national security or diplomatic ties with other countries.

"This means that the President was indeed involved and had done something wrong which was why they fear the impact on national security because the people will likely revolt. In a way, they admitted the view that they have done something illegal which they do not want to bear," Escudero said.

The closed-door meetings, however, have come under fire. Sen. Joker Arroyo claimed that some senators had told the INQUIRER that he had tried to stop Neri from talking more about the President's participation in the deal. Senator Arroyo said the INQUIRER report was false. INQUIRER has stood by its story.

Mismatch of interests

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the public wanted to know "who nearly got away with this anomalous transaction."

"Evidently, there exists a mismatch of interests between the executive and legislative branches of the government," Pangilinan said in a statement.

Reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

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Lame excuses

EDITORIAL

DON'T LOOK AT US, EDUCATION OFFICIALS ARE saying. It's the fault of some local government units, if not our predecessors'.

That is the excuse the Department of Education is giving after the Commission on Audit found some P329 million worth of textbooks, instructional materials, computers and information technology products lying idle and gathering molds in the storerooms of DepEd offices in 15 regions. The COA audit report for 2006 said P187 million worth of textbooks were going to waste because they did not comply with the revised basic curriculum. Some P139 million worth of computers were either missing, left unused or remained underutilized due to the lack of technical resources and facilities to operate them. A couple of millions worth of other instructional materials were also left to gather dust.

Education officials said the books that the COA found in DepEd storerooms were purchased back in 1999 to 2002 by local government units to help ease the textbook shortage. In some cases, different titles were bought for the same subjects in the same grade levels, making it difficult for students and teachers to follow their lessons. In at least one case, in Mandaluyong City, books bought by the city government for P17 million were the same as those supplied by the DepEd. In four regions, the books bought by local governments were riddled with factual and grammatical errors. And in all the regions, except Cagayan Valley, the books that were kept in storage did not comply with the revised curriculum and minimum learning competencies prescribed.

Apparently this is another case where haste made waste—and most likely enriched some city, town or provincial officials and congressmen. But the DepEd can't wash its hands completely in this mess. For did it not issue any guidelines setting the minimum standards for books to be purchased by the local governments? If it did, and these standards were not met, why did it keep quiet about it for at least five years now?

It was not always the quality of the books that was the problem. In Metro Manila, according to the COA report, half a million books, which are presumably up to standards, were simply not distributed to students for one reason or another.

It is criminal to let P187 million go to waste anytime. But this time it was made worse by the fact that the questionable purchases happened when every book had to be shared by three public school pupils on account of a textbook shortage.

But if the DepEd deemed most of these books useless, it did find some use for some computers: to draft reports and prepare financial statements, but not for the purpose they were bought in the first place, which was to serve as teaching tools. The COA report said P115 million worth of computers and collateral materials were being used in the offices of the principals or supervisors. In Eastern Visayas, 567 computers were just lying idle in DepEd stockrooms.

DepEd officials blamed the suppliers for not training the teachers on how to use the computers. In a number of places, the computer textbooks were not appropriate for schoolchildren who were seeing computers for the first time. There were also several cases where the hardware, software, instructional materials and even CDs were defective.

What all this shows is a bureaucracy that cannot make gainful use of available resources either because of incompetence, ignorance or graft and corruption. And the irony is that the DepEd, with Malacañang's blessing and encouragement, wants to embark on a more ambitious and more sophisticated Cyber Education Project that will cost the taxpayers $460 million. That is more than P20 billion which is most likely to go to waste again.

Humane veneer

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE LANDSCAPE OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE UNITED States is rapidly shifting. A federal judge ruled that Tennessee's lethal injection method is unconstitutional. Then, the US Supreme Court announced it would hear a challenge to Kentucky's lethal injection process.

Lethal injection was adopted to put a humane veneer on the taking of a human life in the name of the state. However, it isn't clear that lethal injection under the common three-drug protocol is more humane than the execution methods that came before it. The high court, guided by science, should settle this issue.

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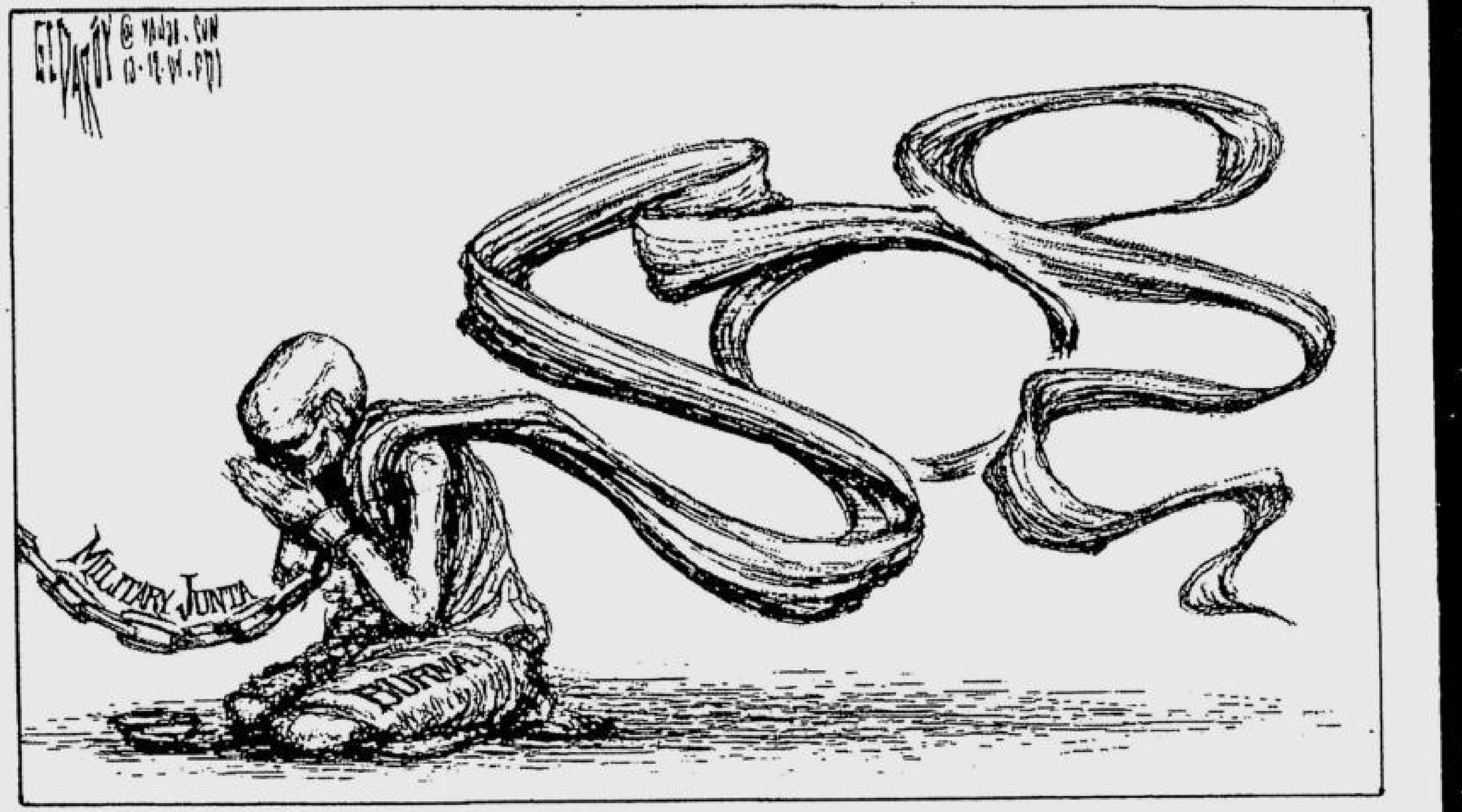

Beware of judges about to retire

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ASK ANY PRACTICING LAWYER AND THAT'S an advice he may give you. He will tell you that some (not all, but only some) judges who are about to retire can sometimes be more deadly than your opponents and the facts of the case. And that you can win or lose a case not on the merits but on who you know and other things....

But why single out those about to retire? Because they are providing for their future; after retirement, they will have no other income except their retirement pay. So like squirrels burying food for the winter, they fatten their bank accounts for the lean days ahead.

Lean? But why lean? Justices and judges have generous retirement pay designed precisely to make them live in comfort for the rest of their days.

It is plain greed that makes them do that.

And while we are on the subject, I think retired justices of the Supreme Court should be banned by law from acting as counsels for litigants. Justices, retired or not, are held in such high respect that they exert undue influence on judges of lower courts. It is unfair for litigants to have retired justices opposing them. Judges are supposed to decide cases based on evidence, but the appreciation of evidence can sometimes be influenced by justices whom the judges hold in high regard.

And it is no secret that because of the camaraderie among judges of lower courts, the party represented by a retired judge usually has the upper hand. It is very difficult for a sitting judge to turn down a request by a fellow judge. Judges are only human. So isn't this a miscarriage or even denial of justice for the opposing litigant?

Ask practicing lawyers and you will hear stories of judges asking for big amounts "because they are about to retire." In land cases, such as expropriation proceedings, some judges add to the value of the land, at the expense of taxpayers, who will have to pay for the land. The amount added (let's say P1,000 per square meter) is reserved for the judge. Multiply the P1,000 per sq m overprice by the tens of thousands of square meters usually involved in these land cases, and you will see that the judge will be amply provided for the rest of his life.

How many times have litigants heard judges say: "*Dagdagan natin ng* P1,000 per sq m *ito para sa akin, magre*-retire na ko eh (Let's add P1,000 per sq m for me. I'm about to retire)"? And people take these indiscretions matter-of-factly because, years ago, a prominent political leader made this comment on corruption cases: "What's wrong with providing for one's future?"

The Supreme Court may not yet be alarmed by this menace. But it should already be, and should do something because cases of retiring judges providing for their future are becoming too frequent for comfort.

* * *

Two of the brightest spots in the economy are the turnaround of Philippine Airlines which only nine years ago was on the verge of bankruptcy (read the series on the PAL miracle in the INQUIRER), and the unprecedented increase in the price of shares of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. in the New York stock market to $70.42.

The $70 breakout in the New York stock market is truly dizzying when you recall that only six years ago, PLDT stocks were selling at only P5 a share. PLDT's market cap in the United States is now $13.3 billion (about P600 billion).

It may be an exaggeration to say that credit should go to Manuel Pangilinan as PLDT's current chair and managing director of First Pacific. But look at the facts: He assumed his present positions only in February 2004, after serving as president and chief executive officer of the corporation for over five years, since November 1998. During his presidency, he led the successful transformation of PLDT from a plain old telephony service (voice) into a convergent voice, data, video (multi-media) service.

Before First Pacific made its investment in PLDT in 1998, the latter was saddled with large debts, inflated costs, tight cash flows and low credit ratings. Today, PLDT is considered one of the best managed companies in the Philippines. It is considered a model for exemplary business management all over Asia and the Pacific.

Pangilinan and PLDT have proven that the Filipino can.

* * *

The Commission on Audit has discovered about P329 million worth of moldy textbooks, information and communication technology (ICT) products, computers and instructional materials in stockrooms, or lying around unused in the offices of school officials. And yet here we are always complaining about the lack of textbooks and other instructional materials. And also about the lack of money for classrooms and teachers.

And here we are eager to spend another P26 billion for the Cyber Education project which would use television sets to broadcast lessons to all public schools in the country. For just 20 minutes of lessons a day—not counting the days that the TV sets would be out of commission because of typhoons, brownouts, etc.—the taxpayers would have to cough up P26 billion.

In the first place, why is it necessary to broadcast the lessons to all the schools simultaneously? Wouldn't it be more practical to just produce millions of DVDs and send them to the schools? One disc costs only a few pesos. And it can be played over and over again. If some students miss the lesson, they can replay the disc. On the other hand, once they miss a lesson in the Cyber Ed, it is gone for good.

That schools may become dream-weavers

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE INVITATION FOR THE SECOND INQUIRER briefing spoke poetically about the true mission of the teacher (citing Plato, as I learned during the forum): "So that you may be better able to discover ... the peculiar bent of the genius of each." The actual talks by INQUIRER columnists, in contrast, were hard-nosed about the sad plight of Philippine education, but tried as well to find glimpses of the changes we continue to hope for.

The "by invitation only" briefing by INQUIRER writers last Wednesday, titled "Making Sense of Current Initiatives in Education," featured Michael Tan, my neighbor in the Opinion pages, colleague in the UP faculty and comrade in arms in many public interest causes; and Michael Suarez, veteran journalist who led the Associated Press coverage of the last desperate years of the Marcos regime and who has advised the government on education reform.

Tan spoke of high schools as "ecotones" which, in the best that my limited lawyer's imagination can muster, are moments in evolution when a species steps onto a new phase and transitions into higher and better adapted forms. He spoke inspiringly of his own students at Diliman and of his own study of the Boys' Town experiment where poor students enjoy fully subsidized education. They found those transformative moments that made them aspire for things that before they wouldn't even dream of.

Suarez spoke of the problem of over-centralization, of how until recently almost everything—from choosing textbooks to ordering school desks and chairs—was decided by headquarters in Manila, and how this emasculates the school principals who are in the frontlines, excludes the communities who are the stakeholders, and fosters the rein of apathetic, laid-back bureaucrats.

Whenever I teach in the United States and my wife and I would drag along our kids, we would enroll them in local public schools. The first thing we noticed was that our kids were happier there than in Philippine schools. The true culprit? The obsolete Pinoy (and Asian) way of teaching, based on rote-memory and a teacher-knows-all authoritarianism. I have written about this pedagogical problem before, and will not belabor it here.

But there is yet a more basic difference, of a more managerial nature. US schools are smaller in scale, and Americans prefer it that way. I understand that in Geneva, a child must attend a grade school within 1.5 kilometers from his home, fostering the proliferation of smaller but more energized schools.

Contrast that to the Pinoy preference for large schools, with big names and huge parking lots. It seems that the test of a great school is if it causes a traffic jam within a one-mile radius at 7:30 a.m. Hey, look, you hoi polloi! We have lots of students, and they're all rich enough to be driven to school in cars! How big-time we are! The mind-set is fostered by the fetish for centralization that Suarez lamented, yet it persists. Perhaps parents prefer to trust the Ph.D.s in their offices rather than the classroom teachers who should know the "peculiar bent of the genius of each" student; or parents totally abdicate the task of teaching and thus need to hedge their bets and rely on play-safe devices like bureaucrats and fancy degrees.

There was yet another issue of a managerial nature. The consensus among academic and business leaders (among them, the group Philippine Business for Education, or PBEd) in that forum was that the private sector is ready and willing to help, and the problem rather is the paucity of ideas for private sector intervention.

I can confirm from my personal experience the good sense expressed by the PBEd. When I was Law dean at UP, it was my pleasurable task to get donors—loyal alumni and non-alumni alike—to contribute scholarships or upgrade existing scholarships, or for that matter, renovate Malcolm Hall. The harvest of grants, awards and donations exceeded all expectations, but most important of all, the donors seemed only too happy to part with their money, confident that they had thus enlisted in a worthy cause.

Establishing scholar grants is the one easy way to tap private funds for education. Filipinos prefer to give to tangible, palpable beneficiaries, not to abstract entities, worst of all, to a twisted and lethargic entity like the Philippine government. Filipinos also have short-time frames and would flunk those old Pavlovian experiments on the virtues of delayed gratification. By sending poor students to school, the smiles—and good grades, I hope—should be ample psychic rewards to the benefactors.

The president of the Philippine State College of Aeronautics (PhilSCA), Enerico M. Sampang, pointed out one big potential, and a scary hazard. The big potential is that of state colleges and universities (SUCs) that transfer marketable technical skills to thousands of students and, in the case of PhilSCA, producing fine Filipino pilots who are increasingly competitive with foreign flyers. If we will continue to rely on OFW remittances, Sampang's PhilSCA will ensure that we export high skilled, well-paid labor.

The flip-side is the continuing threat that the government will curtail the exodus of Filipino pilots—and PhilSCA cannot serve as an ecotone if the government is tone-deaf to the clamor of the common folk. I have in past columns spoken for both open-skies competition and open recruitment of Filipino pilots, to the chagrin of nationalist friends. I hope the politically correct and the radical chic can break away from their time-warp, and beam themselves to the 21st century.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Whistle-blowers as a threat to governments

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

BETWEEN 2000 AND 2005, WHISTLE-BLOWers held hostage the life and death of two governments. In 2000, Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson spilled the beans on the multimillion-peso take of deposed President Joseph Estrada in the *jueteng* protection racket, triggering the first impeachment trial of a president in the country's history, the fall of his government to people power and a plunder case that ended with his criminal conviction in September.

In June 2005, another whistler-blower, former deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation, Samuel Ong, revealed a purloined telephone conversation—tapped by military intelligence agents—between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, purporting to show her intervention in the count of the 2004 presidential election returns.

Whistle-blower Ong's sensational disclosure sparked a political crisis that threatened the collapse of the newly elected government with the resignations of key Cabinet members and with an outbreak of people power demanding her resignation.

Last month, the Arroyo administration stood on the brink of extinction, when another prospective whistle-blower, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, was pressured by the Senate blue ribbon committee and executive session to compel him to rat on his confidential conversation with President Arroyo when he told her that resigned Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos reportedly offered him a P200-million bribe to endorse the broadband telecommunications project with China's ZTE Corp.

Noteworthy is the fact that both Singson and Neri are insiders, Singson in a Mafia-like racket, and Neri, in the Cabinet. A corruption case was built on insider information from Singson and a corruption case is sought to be built on insider information being extracted from Neri. Whatever manner through which information is produced—whether volunteered as in the case of Singson, or under some form of duress as in the case of the blue ribbon proceedings, Singson and Neri fall in the category of stool pigeons or squealers, betraying confidences or trade secrets among their confederates.

In the Mafia, betrayal inevitably leads to assassination, which appeared to have been attempted when heavily armed police stopped and surrounded Singson's armored car in a dimly lit section of San Marcelino Street in October 2000. Luckily for Singson, he had the nerve to bunker himself inside his car and, resorting to no less thuggish method, called his armed bodyguards to the scene.

Before Neri showed up at the Senate executive session, he was reported to have told a friend he feared that what he knew about the broadband deal could "possibly" lead, to the "downfall" of the administration. What Neri apparently feared was that he didn't want to be held responsible for sparking another crisis for the Arroyo administration, not excluding another people power of the kind that toppled the Estrada administration in 2001.

This is why President Arroyo will never allow Neri to reveal anything at Senate hearings and is shielding him behind the armor of "executive privilege," a defense that Neri has stoutly invoked in the Senate hearings in his refusal to reveal information opposition senators are determined to extract from him.

Neri appeared at the hearings fully aware of their purpose. Opposition Sen. Francis Escudero admitted that the hearings were intended to produce evidence that would "link directly" President Arroyo to an allegedly corrupt transaction—not "in aid of legislation." Neri was therefore forewarned he was being set up to be a scoundrel and to provide the smoking gun that would directly link the President to the deal. The opposition wanted Neri to make the case for them. No wonder, Neri did not oblige. He clammed up behind the shield of "executive privilege."

Singson had a powerful motive to expose the jueteng deal, his life was threatened, forcing him to take his documents to Jaime Cardinal Sin and Sen. Tito Guingona. This reason was more compelling and powerful than monetary gain. Thus, he went for broke. Singson didn't seek to be a hero on behalf of public interest. Neri has far less to gain from squealing on his colleagues. He didn't want to be used by the opposition to do the homework for them as a resident insider informer. He refused to be a whistle-blower.

The skullduggery over the Senate investigation into the ZTE deal is enough deterrent to the public not to be used as the marshalling ground for another mass mobilization to bring down a government. The question is: Will the people respond to fresh calls to take to the streets on the basis of results of fishing expeditions?

The people power movements of January 2001 and of June 2005 were driven by whistle-blowers' information. This has given them extraordinary power, as agents of political change, to decide the fate of elected governments. Whistle-blowers' information as a basis for political action short-circuits the institutional procedures for change. That this irregular process has taken place with unsettling frequency in less than five years undermines the stability of orderly transfer of power. It makes the objective of transparency in governance too dependent on whistle-blowers. Criminal prosecutions use a lot of insider's information extracted from state witnesses who squeal on their partners in crime.

But to mount political action on the word of treacherous whistle-blowers is dangerous because people power mob action does not require rigorous examination of evidence. Whistle-blowing heralds the approach of a witch hunt.

Outstanding women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

USED AS SHE WAS TO BEING THE ONLY WOMan in a roomful of men, said Universal Motors Corp. EVP Elizabeth Lee, she could say that "there is more testosterone in this room full of women" during the presentation yesterday of this year's TOWNS awardees.

Lee joins nine other women, including INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, in bagging the recognition as one of The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service, an award given every three years to Filipino women (21-45 years old) who have proven to be outstanding not just in their fields of endeavor, but who also have contributed "to the knowledge, well-being and uplift of the nation."

The 10 awardees were also joined at the lunch affair held at Museo Pambata by TOWNS awardees before them, thus Lee's comment about being in a room filled with women of accomplishment, drive, determination and moxie, with or without the hormone blamed for male aggression.

But most everybody present agreed that the 2007 batch is worthy of recognition. Some of them may toil quietly in their own labs, classrooms, offices and niches, some outside of Manila even. But they all have contributed toward creating a more sustainable, protected environment, ensuring that Filipino children are better educated, lifting the professional and ethical standards of the media, bringing scientific endeavors up to par with world-class standards, and enlisting the business sector in job creation and human resource development.

* * *

ALEXANDRA "Sandy" Prieto-Romualdez went up the stage with three unique accessories: her three sons who all bore a striking resemblance to her. She was cited for the role she has played in "solidifying" the INQUIRER's dominant place not just as the country's most widely-circulated newspaper, but also as its most respected, and particularly for her leadership during the 1999 politically-instigated advertising boycott. These days, she has taken the lead in encouraging reportage on the "good news." But also among Sandy's accomplishments was her initiative to get the INQUIRER involved in social causes, from the draught in Mindanao to readership advocacy, from environmental protection to focusing on the work of communities and NGOs.

At the recognition, Sandy acknowledged "the women of INQUIRER," which includes her mother Marixi, who is the paper's board chair, because they are, she said, "the ones who give INQUIRER its soul."

Another awardee from media is Maria Ressa, senior vice president for News and Current Affairs at ABS-CBN. She may be best known for her work with CNN where she is remembered for her investigative work on the Jemaah Islamiya terrorist group. But, she acknowledges, "Filipino journalists taught me what it means to be a journalist." Having cut her journalistic teeth as a correspondent and editor with Probe Productions (her mentor—and now subordinate—Cheche Lazaro introduced her), Maria was plunged right into the action as she covered the immediate post-Edsa period, including the numerous coups against President Corazon Aquino. Today, she says, her work consists mainly of "setting higher standards and standardizing our ethics" not just at ABS-CBN, but among other media outlets as well.

* * *

DINA S. Ocampo, an associate professor at UP Diliman and mother of two, is aware of the irony that, as the leading authority on dyslexia and literacy difficulties in the country, she herself has a son who is dyslexic and living with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). As she told the board of judges, "my professional interest has become my personal advocacy, entwined." Today, she is acknowledged not just as an expert on reading education, but as an advocate as well for the use of the child's first language (or language at home) as the beginning language of education.

Catherine Vistro-Yu, who serves on the faculty of Ateneo de Manila University, is noted for her role in teacher education in the field of math. In 1996, she helped found MATHED, the national organization of mathematics teacher educators, seeking to raise the standards of math teachers around the country.

Glecy Atienza, is an award-winning playwright, actor and professor also at the UP who seeks to use theater as an educational tool, both for young people and communities. In the words of the awards body: "She has turned theater into a pedagogical force in shaping lives."

Elizabeth Lee may not be a teacher, but she knows what it's like "turning around" a male-dominated organization like the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. Almost single-handedly, she worked to take on a more active stance on used vehicle imports ("thus saving the local car industry," said Mel Alonzo, who introduced her), and to integrate social responsibility into marketing efforts, tying vehicle sales to donations to a micro-finance organization to help create more micro-entrepreneurs.

* * *

MA. CORAZON de Ungria and Eva Maria Cutiongco-de la Paz both work in the field of genetics research. De Ungria was one of the pioneers in the use of DNA analysis for use in court cases and other forensic applications, including its use in sexual abuse cases, particularly those against children. De la Paz, on the other hand, is one of only five medical geneticists in the country, involved in research into genetic abnormalities and genetic factors in cancer.

Ma. Alyssa Peleo-Alampay and Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit are both ardent champions of the environment. Alampay works in the field of geology, or earth science, particularly on the issue of global warming. Quiaoit is a marine biologist based in Mindanao who pursues applied research in both marine and freshwater aquatic habitats.

'La Naval' and a medallion from a Thai king

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST OCT. 4, I WAS PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS the reenactment of the canonical coronation of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, better known as "La Naval de Manila." This year being the 100th anniversary of the canonical coronation, I thought it would just be the act of putting yet more precious crowns on the images of the Infant Jesus and His mother, not realizing that "canonical" coronations are a distinct honor bestowed by the pope on venerated images around the world.

On Oct. 5, 1907, La Naval de Manila was the first image to be canonically crowned by the Apostolic Delegate Ambrose Agius, who is buried (and forgotten) in the gospel side of the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat along Mendiola (better known as the San Beda College Chapel). Since the crowning of La Naval, 23 other images of the Blessed Virgin have been crowned in the Philippines, among them the venerated virgins of Peñafrancia (Bicol), Manaoag (Pangasinan) and Antipolo (Rizal). I'm a bit jaded, but seeing the image of La Naval up close, without the glass that I was told is bullet-proof, was—to use a current expression—an "awesome" experience.

The reenactment of the canonical coronation was done by the bishop of Cubao who stood on a makeshift stage on the epistle side of the altar. After this, the image was borne on the shoulders of devotees a short distance to another stage in the center of the altar. The image was placed inside what appeared like an ornate cabinet with red doors and a hidden elevator; thus the image rose to the applause of the public amid, music, lights and even theater smoke. It was a grand production, indeed.

A few days later, I received a nice e-mail from Rev. Louie Coronel, OP, who is in charge of the celebrations, to gently correct a mistake. I had been told, wrongly, that the original image of La Naval is not allowed out of the church anymore, and that a copy known as "La Callejera" (The Streetwalker) was made to substitute for the venerated image. Well, the Streetwalker is that which goes round the country spreading the devotion to the original image that is enshrined in Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City. Well, it is the original 16th century image of La Naval de Manila that goes out of Sto. Domingo Church during the annual procession.

Anyway, speaking of copies and reproductions, I remember reading an obscure article by Felix Roxas, former mayor of Manila and a devotee of La Naval, whose research revealed that:

"The community of Dominican friars arrived from Mexico prior to the arrival of the Augustinians, the Franciscans, and the Jesuits in the Philippines. About the last years of the 16th century, on the same site where the church of Santo Domingo is actually located in Intramuros, they erected a chapel where the Virgin of the Rosary, the image about two feet high, was venerated, the same image still conserved in an urn lying between the two towers of the belfries at the outer façade of the church. This original image was replaced by the present one which we owe to the chisel of a Chinese carver who executed the work without the intention of becoming a great artist, and completed it as if he were guided by a divine inspiration, something he himself did not take into account."

Any Filipino schoolboy knows that the Augustinians were the first in the country, not the Dominicans; that the navigator of the Legaspi expedition of 1565 was the Augustinian, Andres de Urdaneta. Yet the idea that there was an earlier image before that which was canonically crowned in 1907 is something we have to look into, even if it was probably destroyed with the church during the Battle for Manila in 1945. What did this "original" image look like? Is it still extant somewhere? And speaking of other things I was looking for during the festivities in Sto. Domingo last week, I was disappointed that Nick Joaquin's National Artist chain and medallion was not part of the ornaments La Naval wore that night. There is a small museum in the cloister of Sto. Domingo Church that I have yet to visit because it may just yield the historical curiosities I have been searching for.

More engaging is a small brooch that came from Norodom I, king of Cambodia, who visited the Philippines in 1872, the same year the Cavite Mutiny broke out and the Gomburza fathers were executed. He visited Manila, attended fiestas in Pampanga, and even made a trip to Taal volcano. This king is the grandfather of the more famous Norodom Sihanouk who visited Sto. Domingo Church in 1969 not to pay homage to the Virgin, but to see a medallion that Norodom I had gifted a certain young lady from Bulacan. It is said that the king had proposed to Josefa Roxas y Manio and was turned down. She died a spinster in 1883. Her younger sister Ana was also given a piece of jewelry that reportedly has this inscription on the back: "A la Srta Da. Ana Roxas y Manio Recuredo de SM Norodom I, Rey de Cambodja" (To Miss Ana Roxas y Manio, a souvenir from His Majesty Norodom I, King of Cambodia). This jewel was offered by Ana Roxas to the image of La Naval in October 1892 and was said to adorn the image of the Infant Jesus.

This was last seen by Norodom Sihanouk in 1969. This brooch may be trivial to most people but as part of a story of love and faith, it is very interesting indeed.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

3 R's plus one?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WE'VE ALL HEARD ABOUT THE THREE R'S, TWO OF which grammar purists find atrocious but here goes: reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. The three R's are the fundamentals which educators feel should go into each child's education.

I'm going to discuss 'riting today, taking off from last Wednesday's column about penmanship, and then propose that in these times, perhaps, we need still another "r": religion.

First about writing. My previous column mourned the deterioration of penmanship with each generation of Filipinos. The role of computers is obvious, with even the briefest of letters now dashed off on a word-processing program. The photocopier, on the other hand, allows people to just "Xerox" an article, a book, or, as with many students these days, their classmates' notebooks.

Palmer and others

Last Wednesday night, I had to be at the INQUIRER office and, over cocktails, some of us talked about this issue of penmanship, especially about specific styles in Assumption and in Maryknoll (now Miriam), although no one seemed to know what the names of the writing styles were.

For the males, it looked like only La Salle had a prescribed system, but two of the luminaries at the INQUIRER cocktails said, tongue in cheek, that they were examples of where La Salle failed; they never quite got the scripts. In my column, I said La Sallites were taught the Spencerian script but my Uncle Lawrence, who did master the style, said it's actually the Palmer system. He also clarified that he, being much much younger, was not among La Salle's pre-war batches (oops, sorry Uncle!). And indeed at the INQUIRER, I met (relatively) younger La Salle high school alumni who said the Palmer system was still taught at least up to the 1960s.

I did some research on the Palmer system and realized this was probably the script taught in our public schools, with the black cardboard strips posted on classroom walls as guides. It was first formulated in the late 19th century by Austin Palmer, who had learned the more fancy and ornamental styles from another master penman (yes, that was an occupation in itself!) but saw the need for a more practical script to be used in business: for writing out receipts and letters, and for record-keeping.

You can see one aim would have been legibility, so each transaction was clearly spelled out. Good handwriting was also seen as part of etiquette, a sign that you respected the person you were writing to. Finally, the writing manuals emphasized discipline and hard work with endless exercises of copying the scripts to master them.

Palmer or Spencerian (which was also formulated for business correspondence), or just any plain handwriting system, I think it's important we bring back good penmanship into our educational systems. Far Eastern University president Lydia B. Echauz told me that she does look at the penmanship of job applicants because they tell her something about the person. Many companies, as well as schools, do require a handwritten application or essay because they want to check out the penmanship.

I should mention, too, there are courses now for physicians to correct atrocious handwriting. It used to be that "malgraphicus medicus" was standard, part of a physician's aura of mystery and power. But times have changed and there's been pressure—mainly from pharmacists tired of deciphering doctor's prescriptions—for the doctors to write clearly.

So, check out your kids' handwriting if you want to help them get into good schools or companies. And while you're at it, check your own handwriting as well. . .

Eid'l Fitr

Now to the other "r": religion. Today we celebrate Eid'l Fitr but I'm sure many people only appreciate it as a holiday, with little understanding of what it means. It's an important (some will say the most important) Muslim holy day, marking the end of a month of fasting or Ramadan.

Slowly, the media are picking up on Ramadan and Eid'l Fitr, but it's still given too little coverage when compared, say, to the Chinese New Year. I'd like to see more of the Ramadan explained, with its dawn-to-dusk fasting, if only to challenge non-Muslims with the way they practice their faith. According to an Al-Jazeera news report, Malaysian astronaut Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor did observe the daily Ramadan fast when he was sent up into space and he will be celebrating the Eid up there with vacuum-packed skewered chicken, banana rolls, fermented soybean cakes and ginger jelly.

Beyond Ramadan though, it would do well for Filipinos to learn more about the world's many faiths, and their social and historical contexts. Catholics, for example, know too little about Protestantism as an attempt to reform the Catholic Church.

Some years ago at UP's College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, we began the process of having a General Education course on religion approved, but the plan has stalled because its main proponent went overseas to finish his doctorate.

Mind you, I remain a staunch civil libertarian who believes in the separation of Church and State; but I also believe that the best way to defend freedom of religion, if not the whole range of human rights, is to introduce religious studies in state universities. Britain is an example where religion is taught in public schools.

Religious extremists thrive when people are exposed only to one religion, often with a distorted interpretation of its scriptures. I worry that religious extremists who want theocracies—Christian or Muslim—are gaining ground because we leave religion to them and to their teachings of hatred and bigotry.

Many years ago I was with Adel Tamano (yes, the one who coordinated the Genuine Opposition's campaign) in a TV panel and I was struck by something he had said: "Our religions are very different and it's important to recognize those differences." Tamano is Muslim but he studied in Ateneo.

I agree with him, and feel uneasy with propositions like "Oh all religions are alike" or "Jesus or Allah or Buddha, they're all the same god." Buddhas, incidentally, are not seen as gods, and statements like that show how religions can be so easily trivialized. Teaching religion in schools will help us to understand the ways people try to make sense of our existence, and what it means to be a "good" person. Teaching religion in schools might also help us to go beyond mechanistic prayers and rituals, to a more dynamic practice where we learn from all faiths, to strengthen our own.

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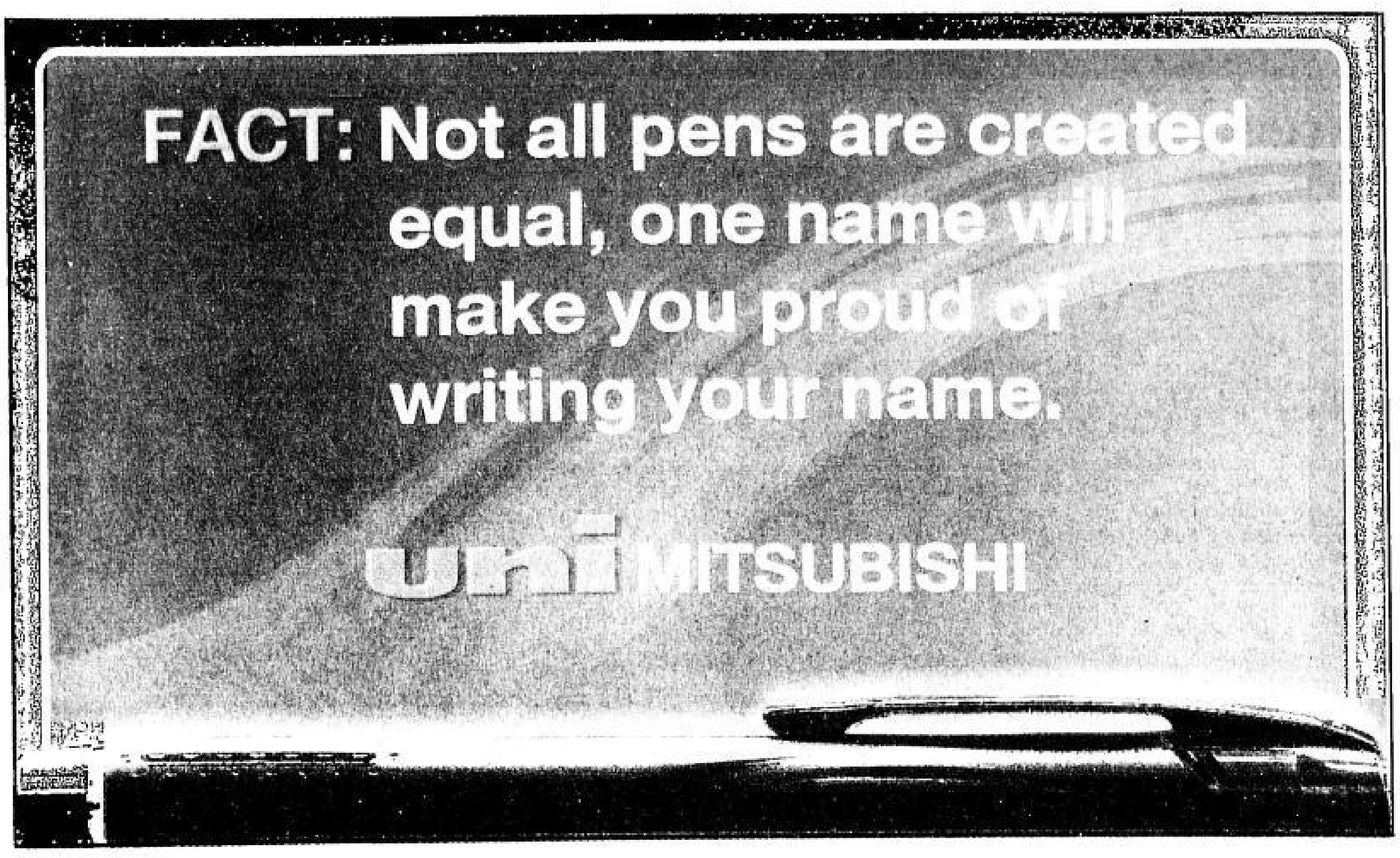
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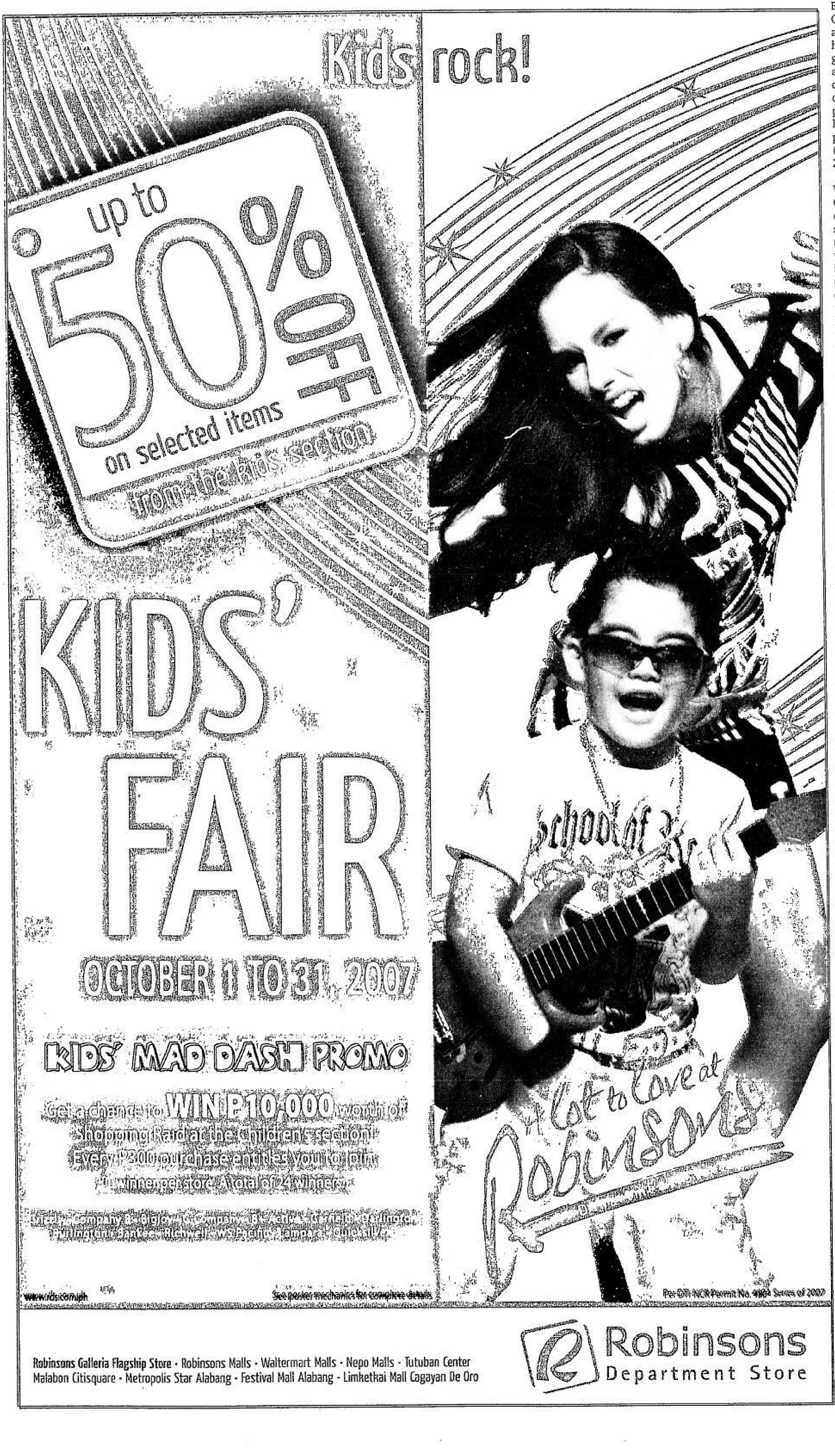
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LETTERS

When obedience becomes dangerous

THE CURRENT SENATE investigation on the NBN-ZTE deal calls to mind the case of then US Interior Secretary Richard Ballinger. The case was also the subject of a US congressional investigation involving two vital witnesses: Louis Glavis and Frederick Kerby, Ballinger's assistant and stenographer, respectively. In that case, duty and loyalty became a central issue—in particular, the moral duty of a subordinate to disclose what he thinks are policy deviations made by his superior public officer.

On this case, allow me to lift from a page of "The New Meaning of Justice" by Ernest Wyzanski Jr., a brilliant trial judge who, in his lifetime, was considered one of America's "most eloquent legal spokesmen."

In Glavis' case the subordinate believed his chief, Ballinger, was surrendering portions of the public domain to private rapacity. The stenographer Kerby knew from the letters he had transcribed that Ballinger, Attorney General Wickersham and President Taft had misled the congressional committee as to the chronological order in which documents had been prepared, and thus had altered their import and value. (Shades of the NBN-ZTE deal?)

So these questions: What was the duty of Glavis and Kerby under those circumstances? How far and to whom, were they warranted in becoming informers? Was there an overriding obligation to individuals with whom one had been confidentially associated? Could this conflict of attachments be resolved by a profounder understanding of the principle of loyalty?

The counsel for Glavis, the brilliant Louis D. Brandeis (later appointed US Supreme Court justice; famous for his independence of mind), aptly answered those questions, as follows:

"The danger in America is not of insubordination, but ... of too complacent obedience to the will of superiors ... the one thing we need is men in subordinate places who will think for themselves and who will think and act in full recognition of their obligations as part of the governing body .... We want every man in the Service .... to recognize that he is part of the governing body ... (that) they cannot be worthy of the respect and admiration of the people unless they add to the virtue of obedience some other virtues—the virtues of manliness, of truth, of courage, of willingness to risk position, ... to risk criticism ... to risk the misunderstandings [that] so often come when people do the heroic thing."

Incidentally, in that Ballinger case, Brandeis cited four cardinal virtues of a witness: power of observation, perfection of memory, clarity of expression and ability to envisage the whole situation into which his testimony fits.

Past forward: How about measuring the testimony of the witnesses in the Senate inquiry into the ZTE deal against such standards?

Footnote: a quote from Oliver Goldsmith's "The Deserted Village":

"Ill fares the land, to hast'ning ills a prey,

Where wealth accumulates, and men decay."

—EDMUNDO H. ESCALANTE,
retired judge,
Gubat, Sorsogon

Growth is not all economic

ANG GALING TALAGA NI JESS ABRERA! HE is using his signature talent in his comic strip "A. Lipin" to share his experience during his visit to Northern Samar, where he was a special guest speaker at our recently concluded "Seminar on Environmental Journalism" for the young writers of different school publications in Region 8. He has done us proud.

We are happy that the INQUIRER has become part of our efforts to make Northern Samar known not only for its typhoons, NPA raids or military campaigns, but also for its struggle for transformative education. The Seminar on Environmental Journalism, for example, was sponsored by SHIFT Foundation in cooperation with the Philippine Foundation for the Environment and the provincial government of Northern Samar.

May we also take this opportunity to thank Juan L. Mercado for his insightful column last Sept. 4 on the importance of the passage of House Bill 4764 that seeks to protect the remaining primary forests of the island of Samar by declaring them part of the Samar Island Natural Park.

In the same spirit, I wish to congratulate Mayor Melchor Nacario of Calbiga, Western Samar, for that inspiring video aired on ABS-CBN last Sept. 22. The video showed his town's efforts to preserve its art and heritage; and his great sense of urgency to preserve the biodiversity of its environment, expressed in his call for a total ban on mining and rejecting the lunacy that development can be measured purely in terms of economic progress. For him, the preservation of art, heritage and the environment overrides progress that will result in our losing everything.

—SR. MARIBEL CARCELLER, RSCJ,
executive director,
SHIFT Foundation,
Mondragon, Northern Samar

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90% of journalists slain since 2001 exposing graft

From page A1

activities such as drug trafficking and gambling.

Government personnel, such as police officers and local government officials, have been identified as the prime suspects in at least nine of these cases.

Killing of Mariano

A case in point is that of broadcaster Roger Mariano of Laoag, Ilocos Norte. The murder case against Mariano's suspected killers is pending at the Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 54. The primary suspects are Senior Police Officer 4 Apolonio Medrano and his alleged accomplice, Basilio Yadao.

Medrano was a member of the Philippine National Police Criminal Intelligence and Detection Group and was assigned at the Cordillera Autonomous Region at the time of Mariano's death.

Mariano, 44, was one of the most critical broadcasters in Ilocos Norte. Local officials feared being the subject of Mariano's hard-hitting commentaries in his popular radio program, according to the broadcaster's colleagues.

"Roger Mariano in Action" was aired over dzJC Radyo Natin-Aksyon Radyo. Mariano, known as a fearless and critical journalist, started in radio broadcasting in 1990. He would discuss the most controversial issues of the day in his program. More often than not, local officials were the subjects of his broadcasts.

On the night of July 31, 2004, Mariano announced over the air that he would be reporting a major story on a corruption scam he had uncovered in his next broadcast.

Mariano never got the chance to do so; He was killed that same night. He was gunned down between 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. by then unknown assailants while riding home on his motorcycle after his radio program. He was shot several times in the back and head.

Case of Philip Agustin

Mariano was wearing a trademark belt bag that contained a disk with information about alleged scams in a local electric company. His belt bag was missing when his body was recovered. Mariano's wristwatch and wallet were untouched.

Dingalan, Aurora-based journalist Philip Agustin had also been writing and publishing reports critical of the local mayor. In the last issue of Starline Times Recorder, Agustin accused Dingalan Mayor Jaime Ylarde of misuse of funds, relief goods and logs intended for the rehabilitation of the town, which had been hit by flash floods and landslides in 2004.

The CMFR study found that like Mariano and Agustin, most of those killed worked in the provinces. Even in urbanized areas in the provinces, the journalists' killings are not likely to get the kind of national attention that will press police to investigate them.

Moreover, 10 of the slain journalists were blocktimers in local radio stations not affiliated with national networks; six other journalists were on the regular staff of local stations; seven dabbled in both radio and print; one had stints in both television and radio; only five were purely print journalists and one was an online news photographer.

Similarities

Of these journalists, only 11 had current Kapisanan ng Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) accreditation, while four had expired accreditation and 13 had no accreditation at all. Moreover, another similar characteristic is that most of the slain journalists did not have academic training in journalism.

About 42.4 percent had college degrees in fields not related to journalism or mass communication. Some 18.2 percent did not finish college, 12.1 percent only finished high school; while 24.2 percent did not have any available record of their educational attainment.

Only 3 percent had college degrees related to mass communications. However, at least 12 had attended short courses and training programs conducted by the KBP and other media organizations.

Internationally infamous

Internationally, the Philippines is no longer the "most dangerous country for journalists outside a war zone," a negative distinction the country gained in 2005 and 2006. Russia now has at least 25 percent more slain journalists than the Philippines.

But Joel Simon, the executive director of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, told CMFR in a recent meeting that the Philippines remained high in his organization's ranking due to the culture of impunity that persists in the killing of journalists. He noted that the number of solved cases and actual convictions of journalists' killers remained extremely low.

Only one case was successfully concluded in 2006. The assassins of Marlene Esperat (Randy Grecia, ex-Army Sgt. Estanislao Bismanos and Jerry Cabayag) were sentenced to life imprisonment after a trial that began in mid-2005 and ended in October 2006.

But while Esperat's killers were convicted, the murder case against suspected masterminds Osmeña Montañer, Department of Agriculture (DA)-Region XII finance officer and Estrella Sabay, DA-regional accountant, still needs to be re-opened after being prematurely dismissed by Judge Francis Palmones of the Tacurong City Regional Trial Court.

That case would not have prospered without the efforts of the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists Inc. (FFFJ), which assisted government prosecutors by hiring private prosecutors in the Esperat and Damalerio cases.

Established in 2003, the FFFJ is a network of media institutions dedicated to raising funds for assistance to journalists under siege and slain victims' families. It also undertakes press freedom advocacy campaigns.

CMFR serves as the FFFJ's secretariat. The other FFFJ members are the Philippine Press Institute (PPI), the Center for Community Journalism and Development, the KBP, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, and the US-based newspaper Philippine News. Its current board chair is Jose Pavia, executive director of PPI, who recently succeeded Philippine News' Danny Gozo.

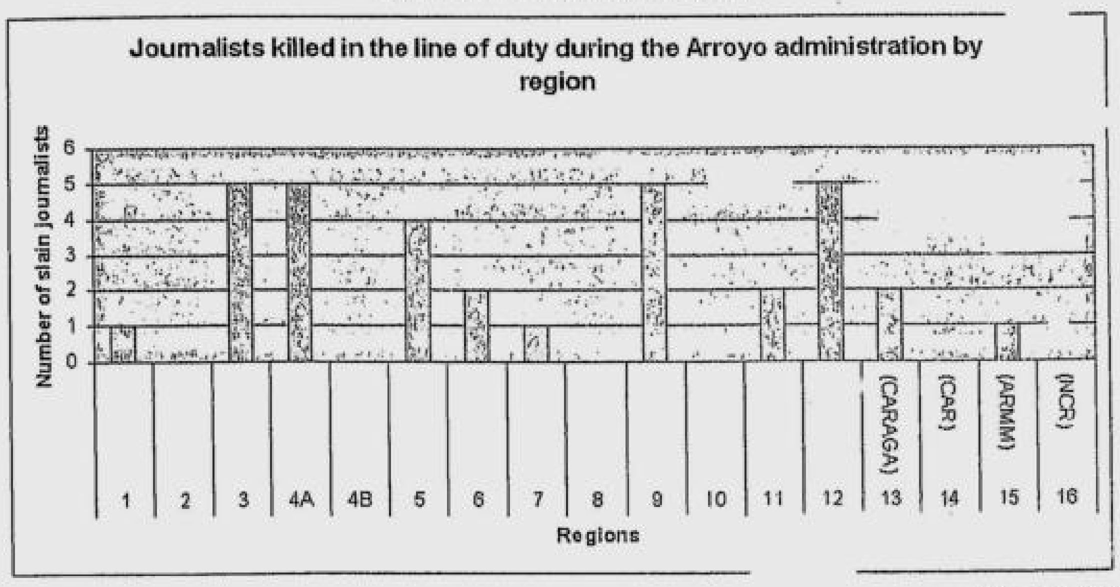
The FFFJ is currently overseeing other pending cases of slain journalists, even as it is hoping for convictions in the cases of slain journalists Philip Agustin, Roger Mariano and Rolando Ureta this year.

Most dangerous zones

Of the cases, 15.2 percent are under trial, 51.5 percent are still under investigation, 15.2 percent have been dismissed due to lack of evidence, and 12.1 percent are pending prosecution.

Philippine provinces are not equally dangerous for journalists. In 2006, Luzon proved to be as dangerous to journalists as Mindanao in the previous year with an equal 15.2 percent in four regions: Regions III (Central Luzon); IV-A (Calabarzon); IX (Zamboanga Peninsula) and XII (Socckssargen). Runner-up was Region X (Northern Mindanao) with 12.1 percent of the death toll. *(See Figure 3: Deaths by region)*

Figure 3: Deaths by region



Well-known pattern

Research into the locations of the slayings confirmed an already well-known pattern in the modus operandi of the attackers. Most of the killings occurred near the journalists' place of work or home. This indicates that the murders were premeditated, with the assassins studying the daily routines of their victims.

CMFR also discovered that news organizations do not provide their staff with guidance on safety as a matter of course.

While there is increasing international pressure to solve extrajudicial killings in the Philippines, the reaction of government in finding real solutions to end the cycle of violence is slow in coming.

There is a need for media organizations to make a concerted effort to reduce the violence even as CMFR has consistently emphasized that the legitimate exercise of press freedom should never be penalized, but that erring and abusive journalists may be sanctioned through existing means of self-regulation, with lawsuits for libel and slander being the last resort.

But, as the study shows, certain factors contribute to the press' individual and institutional vulnerability that need to be addressed via ethics and safety training, media accreditation by the KBP, continued support for legal defense, and the setting up of Citizen Press Councils around the country to promote press accountability and to provide safe venues for the airing of grievances against erring journalists.

With research by Jose Bimbo F. Santos

'It's huge!' It's bigger than Pacman . . .

From page A1

crowd that saw Pacquiao's homecoming at daybreak at the Centennial Terminal.

Armed with digital cameras and camera phones, roughly 300 ground handlers, safety officers, utility workers, mechanics, and airline staff with ramp clearance turned up at Naia's main aircraft movement area as the largest civilian plane approached.

3 basketball courts

"It is huge!" said one employee as the superjumbo jet appeared on the horizon, noting the plane's wings spanned the length of almost three basketball courts.

Blue-clad workers stood near Terminal 1's aerobridges and under parked smaller aircraft to take a peek, hear and feel the aircraft touch down.

"Many have been waiting for the landing because they want to see if the airport can handle it," said another worker.

The plane's four giant engines, roughly the size of a private jet's fuselage, were still whirring when workers daringly walked close to the aircraft and started taking solo and group shots with the blue Airbus A-380 logo as background. The photo-taking went well into the afternoon.

150-hour tour

The plane flew to Manila as part of a 150-hour technical probing tour in destinations in North and South America, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific.

The two-deck, $390-M aircraft with a total cabin height comparable to an eight-story building had a smooth touchdown at the Naia after a stop in Melbourne, Australia.

The plane is as long as a Boeing 747, with fuselage length that's just shy of a football field's, said Julien Manhes, A-380 senior marketing manager. It can seat 525 passengers in the three-class setup, but can accommodate as many as 800.

"With the landing of the A-380, we have proven that Naia can handle the 380, our runway at least ... Now that she has landed, there are things that have to be done to make sure that we're ready for commercial operation at the terminal," said Naia General Manager Alfonso Cusi.

For A-380 test pilot Capt. Peter Chandler, the A-380's 61st airport was an easy one.

"Basically, the airplane can operate on any runway that can take the larger types of aircraft," Chandler said in a press conference at the Naia Terminal 1.

Cleaner, quieter

Test plane MSN009 is scheduled to fly to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, Pampanga, this morning to continue the test program meant to "demonstrate that it can be turned around under normal airline operating conditions."

The aircraft is not fitted with the typical cabin amenities yet, just equipment and other technical requirement for long-range flights.

The tour is aimed at showing the plane's ability to complete long-haul flights and keep up with the demands of actual commercial operation. The test flight series also sought to check whether airports in future destinations could accommodate the plane, now tagged the "21st century flagship."

The Airbus A-380 is touted as a "greener, cleaner, quieter and smarter" as the aircraft maker said the plane makes the least environmental impact while being cost-efficient at the same time. As of this month, Airbus has 185 orders and purchase commitments from 15 customers.

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PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 17, s-2007

TO : ALL ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS; PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES, CLAIMS DEPARTMENTS; AND ALL OTHER OFFICES CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Discontinuance of Compensability of Claims for Cataract Surgery Performed During Medical Missions and thru Other Recruitment Schemes and Further Limiting the Number of Compensable Claims for Cataract Surgery

Pursuant to **PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 1046 s.2007**, PhilHealth shall hereby discontinue the compensability of claims for cataract operations performed during medical missions and other recruitment schemes for cataract surgery.

The said Resolution also directs PhilHealth to employ necessary measures to limit the number of claims for the said procedure which may be compensated under the program by ascertaining the veracity of volume claims prior to processing and payment.

Implementing guidelines for compliance to this Circular shall be issued forthwith.

This circular shall take effect on **all claims for cataract operations with admission dates starting November 1, 2007.** All other issuances inconsistent herein are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO
Acting President & CEO/EVP (COO)

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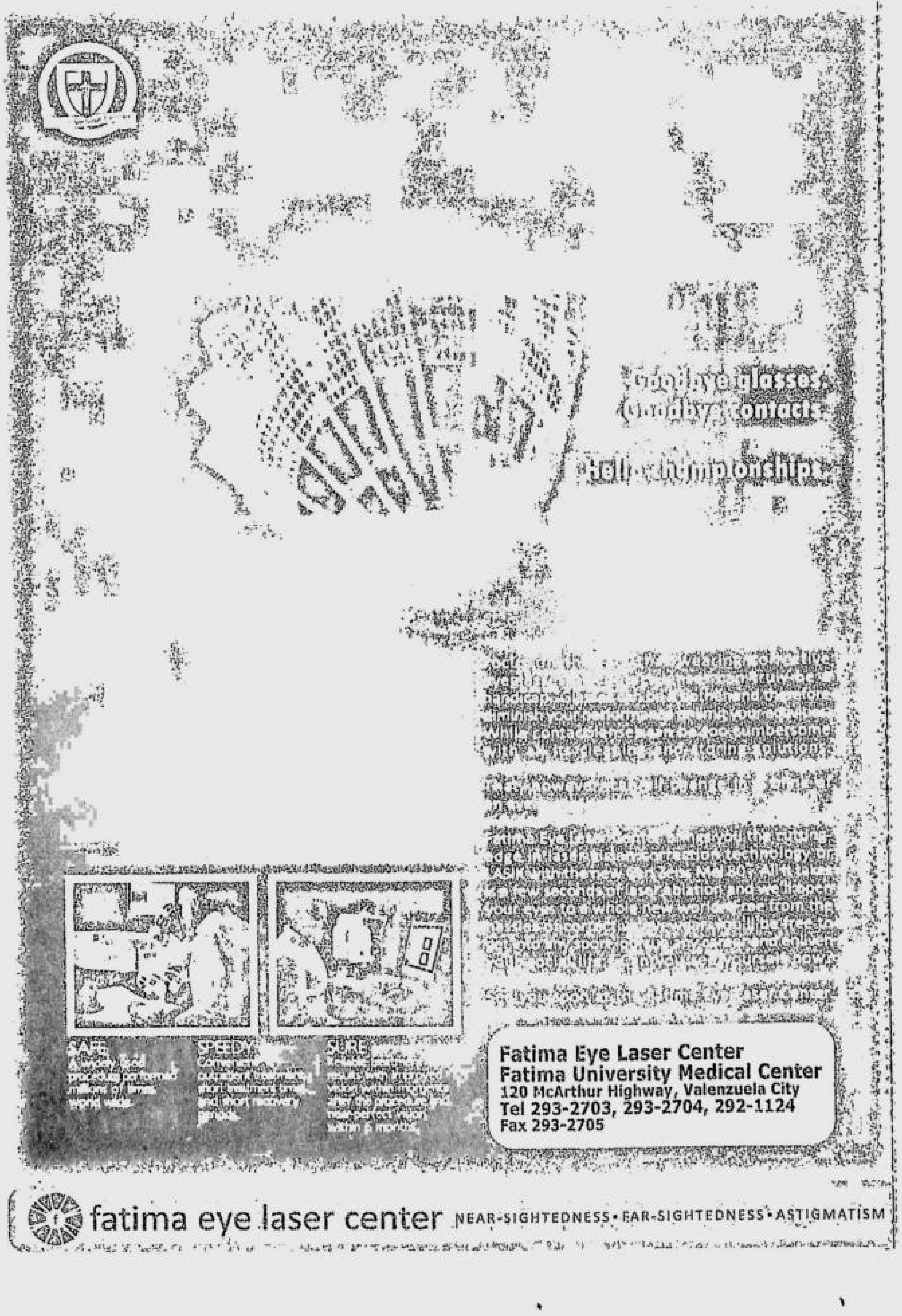

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JDV delaying tactic for ouster of 2 Cabinet men, GSIS chief

By Norman Bordadora

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA tried to delay the referral of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo because he wanted the heads of Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia and several Cabinet members to roll, according to the congressman who endorsed the complaint.

Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis revealed this in a privilege speech just minutes after De Venecia inhibited himself from the referral of the impeachment complaint to the House committee on justice. The referral of the case signaled the start of the one-year ban against the filing of any other impeachment complaint against the President.

"He wants to use this to take Malacañang and the entire country hostage. That's why he's delaying the referral of the impeachment complaint that I've endorsed," San Luis said in his speech delivered at early evening.

"If this is true, this is a big blow to the separation of powers," he added.

Aside from Garcia, San Luis said his information also showed that De Venecia wanted Ms Arroyo to remove the following from the government: Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, Health Secretary Francisco Duque, Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. chair Ephraim Genuino.

Garcia is the son of Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia who ran against De Venecia in the last bitterly fought speakership race.

It was not immediately clear why De Venecia would want the other officials fired.

The impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido and endorsed by San Luis is seen by the House opposition as a weak complaint in connection with the President's alleged $329-million National Broadband Network contract with ZTE Corp. and one that is designed to fail.

Palace fixes 190 solons; pro-GMA solons given P.5M in cash

From page A1

"a remembrance," a "sendoff gift," and "*tulong*" (help).

"All of them received P500,000," a ranking member of the staff of one administration congressman said. "Some were floating P200,000 just so they can save when barangay officials start asking them for assistance."

"The President was not there when the money was distributed, but congressmen got the message. They have to toe what Malacañang wants to happen as far as the impeachment is concerned," he added.

Hard and soft

The source said that another matter relayed to the House members during the meeting was the distribution of their pork barrel worth P70 million.

"Before, it was 50 hard and 20 soft (P50 million for infrastructure and P20 million for funds assistance to local government units). Now, it's 35 and 35," the congressional source said. "Now, there's more flexibility."

In an interview with the INQUIRER hours after the distribution of money, an administration lawmaker said the largesse came inside envelopes containing at least P200,000 in cash.

The amounts were distributed at the end of a breakfast meeting, the congressman said on condition of anonymity.

"They were distributed by the door as the congressmen were leaving," he said.

Too small

But the source made it clear that the money was not meant to influence lawmakers on their decision in the impeachment complaint.

"You don't kill an impeachment with that meager amount," he said.

"It's normal at the end of the session days for congressmen to be given tokens of remembrance," the other lawmaker said.

"In this case, congressmen worked extended hours for the national budget. They slept very little. So it's but natural for the party to make members feel that they are remembered."

Help in the elections

Asked to comment on reports that the congressmen received promises of "pork barrel" before or after the Oct. 29 barangay elections, the source said the congressmen got no other pledge from the party leadership.

Another majority congressman confirmed the cash distribution, but said it was intended as "*tulong*" (help) for lawmakers for the upcoming barangay elections.

Asked about the reported "pork barrel" promise, a senior member of the ruling coalition gave different figures of the amounts promised: "The P15 million are for soft projects. The P20 million are for hard projects. We've been working for those since August. These are all for 2008."

The senior congressman, like the other INQUIRER sources, asked not to be identified given the sensitivity of the subject matter.

Soft projects are financial assistance to local government units and public institutions such as hospitals. Hard projects are those for infrastructure such as roads, bridges and classrooms.

Another meeting

The senior congressman denied receiving P200,000 to P500,000 to help barangay election candidates in the coming elections, saying he left the breakfast early.

"I don't know anything about that," the three-term lawmaker said.

"There was no need to tell anybody to support the referral of the impeachment complaint against the President because it was already agreed that it will no longer be the Speaker who will transmit the complaint," the senior congressman said.

Malacañang summoned administration lawmakers to breakfast at 8 a.m.

Ms Arroyo showed up around 30 minutes later, but delivered no speech, according to one INQUIRER informant.

Another lawmaker also from the majority said another gathering was scheduled last night in Malacañang "for those who failed to attend the breakfast."

"I got an invitation," he told the INQUIRER.

Just a social

Another administration lawmaker, who was also present during the breakfast, said the occasion was largely a "social gathering" for legislators before they took their semestral break.

But the source said his colleagues repeatedly harped on the idea that the elections were near and they needed money.

"*Maraming nagpaparinig*," the source said. "*Magastos daw.*"

One of the INQUIRER sources said a congressman needed at least P3 million to help finance youth and barangay candidates in the coming polls. In his district alone, he said he needed at least P1 million on the premise that each of his candidates was to be given P1,000.

One congressman admitted by phone that envelopes were passed during the meeting but said it contained only "a token (amount)."

He explained that the money would go to barangay officials who would have to run for reelection in the barangay polls this month.

No Saros released

But the lawmaker, who belongs to the inner circle of the House leadership, denied that special allotment release orders (Saros) were released.

"I don't think so," the congressman said, stressing that he himself was surprised that pork barrel allocations were not distributed by Malacañang.

"This is the first time in six years that they did not give anything on the last day of the session of Congress," the lawmaker said. "Usually, Saros are handed out during this time."

The congressman suspected that Ms Arroyo was stopping the scheduled release of Saros as a leverage against House members on the issue of the impeachment complaint.

Pulling the strings

"It's coming," the lawmaker said, stressing that Malacañang had the penchant for using the pork barrel entitlements to keep lawmakers toeing the administration line.

The lawmaker sees Malacañang's hands "pulling the strings to oust" the Speaker.

"Let's see who will win in the end. They can't just unseat Speaker De Venecia," the congressman said.

Former House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles neither confirmed nor denied the reported release of Saros when reached by phone late yesterday.

"Releases, if any, of our legislative and our district entitlements for our people are not in any way impeachment-connected. Fact is that they are long overdue for our priority projects listed by congressmen," said Nograles.

Presidential Management Staff Chief Cerge Remonde said he was not present during the breakfast meeting, "but I don't think that the Palace will go down to that level."

He said the unfounded reports were part of the "political intrigues that are no longer news."

Not for sale

Remonde said: "The congress men are not for sale, and for that matter the entire Congress of the Philippines."

"The President is confident that any impeachment attempt will collapse under its own lack of weight," Remonde said.

JDV backs off; 'sham' impeachment rap goes to slaughter

From page A1

to the justice committee.

In a letter, De Venecia designated Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar to "discharge my functions today only for the purpose of properly disposing of the impeachment complaint."

The complaint was officially filed and referred to the justice committee at around 7:30 p.m. The committee will determine if the complaint is sufficient in form and substance, or defective and should be thrown out.

The impeachment complaint filed by private lawyer Roel Pulido has drawn bipartisan fire for supposedly lacking teeth. It was anchored on Ms Arroyo's supposed involvement in the negotiations that led to the award of the now-scuttled $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project to ZTE Corp. of China.

No threat to GMA

Critics of the Pulido complaint claimed it was actually a Malacañang-backed initiative and that it was so weak it presented no threat to Ms Arroyo at all.

They said the committee on justice was bound to dismiss it, thus protecting Ms Arroyo from a stronger impeachment case for at least another year. Its dismissal would also enable her to revamp the House leadership later, even seek De Venecia's ouster, if she saw fit, they said.

Under House rules, an official cannot be the target of an impeachment case twice within a year.

De Venecia had previously indicated he was not inclined to refer the Pulido complaint to the justice committee. Nonreferral would have spelled its early death.

Like husband, like wife

The Speaker's son, Jose "Joey" III, said his father toed Malacañang's line in order to retain the speakership and preserve the ruling coalition.

"Like husband, like wife (telling us to) back off," Joey de Venecia said.

Joey de Venecia was alluding to an incident in which the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had told him to "back off" from the controversial NBN project.

The younger De Venecia's firm, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., had contested the NBN project, which was later awarded to China's ZTE Corp.

The younger De Venecia stood his ground and later told a Senate inquiry committee how Ms Arroyo's husband supposedly tried to browbeat him. He also alleged that resigned Commissioner Benjamin Abalos offered him a $10-million bribe to withdraw his proposal on the NBN project.

A cop-out

Sen. Panfilo Lacson believes the elder De Venecia, by dissociating himself from the impeachment process, had "copped out" to save his speakership post.

"That's the only conclusion for the sudden change of plans," Lacson said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

"He changed gears suddenly. He backed off, he was afraid to be removed. As if he is now assured of retaining his speakership, or at least that is how he wants to believe," he added.

Lacson said De Venecia might have been unnerved by Ms Arroyo's show of force yesterday.

"The President showed him the presence of around 190 congressmen then delivered the coup de grace—'You're out.' Now that he eventually copped out on the transmittal issue, will he still be Speaker? But for how long?" the senator said.

In a text message before De Venecia announced he was inhibiting himself from the impeachment process, Lacson said most lawmakers believed De Venecia would take a leave of absence.

"He's out. It's only a matter of whether he'll get out fighting or not. It seems he's giving up without a fight," Lacson said.

'JDV saved her'

"I pity him. He saved her in 2005 during the height of the 'Hello Garci' (wiretapping) scandal. What he didn't know and probably doesn't still realize is that nothing matters with the President except herself."

Reacting to his father's decision to back away from the impeachment process, Joey de Venecia said that "my father went along with that because he is a team player, he is supportive of the President. And he allowed whatever to happen to retain the speakership."

A source close to the Speaker said that during yesterday's breakfast meeting in Malacañang, De Venecia was told that he should go on leave as Speaker and Del Mar would take over and refer the impeachment case to the justice committee.

"The best strategy for you is to go on leave so that Del Mar will take over," a source quoted Ms Arroyo as telling the Speaker.

The elder De Venecia was told this was the consensus of the administration congressmen.

The source said the Speaker was aghast.

In his press conference later, De Venecia read out his letter to Del Mar explaining his decision: "Let it not be said that I am doing this to seek any personal leverage or to await the filing of any other impeachment complaint."

De Venecia said inhibiting himself from the impeachment complaint—and also from the separate ethics complaint filed against him also by Pulido—was the better recourse amid the intense speculation that had marred the issue.

"If I take a leave of absence, it's as if that I am a weakling and I'm running away from responsibility," he told reporters in a press conference following hours of closed-door meetings with his top lieutenants at the House of Representatives.

But a senior administration lawmaker identified with De Venecia admitted that the decision "diluted" his prospect of launching a counterattack in case of an open declaration of war against the President.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the De Venecia ally said the retaliation could come in the form of a "real" impeachment complaint coming from the Speaker's camp.

De Venecia said he was a victim of a "dark conspiracy," highlighted by the Pulido complaints, in the light of his son's disclosures on the NBN deal.

On the rampage

"This guy (Pulido) is on a rampage," he said. "I'm very offended because while it's an impeachment case against the President, it's largely an attack against me. I feel terrible."

De Venecia still tried to put up a strong and brave front.

"I have been elected Speaker five times by the will of the political parties in the House, not by the will of Malacañang," De Venecia said.

One concern in the De Venecia camp was that Ms Arroyo's allies in the House could now launch more and direct attacks against De Venecia since she had been granted yearlong immunity from another impeachment complaint.

"I'm prepared to meet all threats to my position," the Speaker said. "We have nothing to fear."

De Venecia's inhibition was the product of a stretch of "agonizing" consultation meetings, culminating with a closed-door discussion with Ms Arroyo herself in Malacañang at around 10 a.m. yesterday.

Present in the meeting were Deputy Speakers Eric Singson, Simeon Datumanong and Amelita Villarosa, Senior Deputy Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, Rep. Matias Defensor, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and Del Mar.

"Until that meeting, the Speaker was agonizing," an administration lawmaker told the INQUIRER in an interview. "I wouldn't want to be in his position."

He said De Venecia and the other congressmen tackled the best course of action on the Pulido complaint "in the presence of the President," who supposedly kept quiet.

Afterward, he said it was the Speaker who "volunteered" to inhibit himself from the referral of the complaint to the justice committee. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan*

GMA taps local gov't officials anew for show of force

From page A1

gressmen to resolve the fate of the new impeachment complaint lodged against her.

While Ms Arroyo had ostensibly called the meeting with the local executives for her to be apprised of the status of the projects in the so-called "super regions," she delivered a speech where she sought stronger unity between the national government and the local governments amid the fresh political turmoil.

She also announced that she would appoint some local officials to the China Projects Oversight Panel that she had formed to oversee contracts between the Philippines and China, which includes the Cyber Education project.

Her local allies did not disappoint her, vowing to back her efforts in focusing on the economy and to come up with a common position on the impeachment case filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

"If we see that the [complaint] has no basis, we will definitely go all-out to support [its] junking," Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone told reporters after the meeting with Ms Arroyo.

Members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) and other officials were still meeting at press time.

'Ate Vi'

Evardone said 48 of the 81 governors, including Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos, attended the Palace meeting that had to do with the status of the "super regions" infrastructure program.

He said it was he who had raised the issue of the Pulido impeachment complaint with the local government executives and suggested that they come up with a common position.

"We crossed party lines here ... We will talk after this," Evardone said as he underscored the crucial role played by local government officials in the past crises that had plagued the President, including the "Hello Garci" scandal in 2005 that almost brought down her administration.

"Modesty aside, I think that when things were not going in favor of Malacañang ... I think it turned the tide," said Evardone, the secretary general of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP).

Asked what the local government officials could do to help the embattled Arroyo administration, Evardone said they could probably "monitor the movements of our congressmen."

"And if possible, we will appeal to them to consider the national interest in deciding on the national issue," he said.

Evardone said that if indeed the impeachment complaint had no basis, they would convince their congressmen to junk it.

'Politicking'

He said that during informal talks with his fellow governors, they saw the need for the impeachment complaint to be resolved immediately because it was like a "sword of Damocles" hanging over the President.

'Unity vs politicking'

In her meeting with the members of Ulap, LPP and League of Local Governments, and other local officials, the President said it was time to sustain economic growth and investment.

She said "politicking" had to stop: "*Tama na sana ang pamumulitika.*"

She also said it was important for the government to fast-track infrastructure programs in the "super regions" as well as the passage of the proposed national budget for 2008.

"Most important of all, we should strengthen the unity between the national and local governments that have brought development amid the danger and challenges of the past years, especially Ulap and the other leagues that brought success and progress," Ms Arroyo said in Filipino.

She said she had included Ulap in the China Projects Oversight Panel so as to give the local executives a voice in the implementation of these projects.

Ulap will also be included in the Pro-Performance System overseeing infrastructure projects, she said.

"In our unity against politicking, violence and other barriers to progress, we will bring the benefits of modern and humane governance to all the super regions and every citizen," Ms Arroyo said.

"So I'd like to thank you for all coming here today," she said.

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Gov tags cops in vigilante killings

DIGOS CITY—DAVAO DEL SUR GOV. DOUGLAS Cagas yesterday accused the local police of direct involvement in the series of summary executions of suspected criminals here.

"Two policemen are into it. And Cabuhat (Senior Insp. Ceazar Cabuhat) knows this," Cagas said in a TV interview.

Cabuhat is the city police director.

Cagas said the involvement of policemen in the killings, which targeted drug personalities and other criminals, was the main reason the murders remained unsolved.

Vigilantes

Data from the city police showed that from January to September this year, at least 14 persons have been killed in vigilante-style attacks.

In 2006, 19 persons were also killed by motorcycle-riding gunmen, who residents believe, belong to a local death squad.

But Cabuhat said contrary to Cagas' claim, the police have solved some of these killings.

Police record

He said in 2006, six of the 19 recorded incidents had been solved while this year, one case had been solved already.

Cabuhat also denied the existence of a vigilante group targeting law offenders here.

He also challenged Cagas to present evidence about the supposed involvement of policemen in the killings.

"He must support his statement as not to undermine the integrity of the police force of the city. He is just drumbeating hearsays," Cabuhat said.

Davao situation

In Davao City, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte recently denied insinuations that police authorities were behind the series of summary executions there targeting drug personalities and other suspected criminals.

He said contrary to belief among residents here, there is also no such thing as the Davao Death Squad (DDS).

About two weeks ago, CNN ran a feature on the summary executions, where some residents said they believed that authorities were the ones murdering drug personalities and suspected criminals.

Gangland

But Duterte said based on police investigations, the killings were the off-shoot of rivalry among some gangs and the death of drug suspects could be related to unfulfilled monetary obligations to pushers or traders.

"So you better disabuse your mind of the idea that there is a vigilante group operating in the city. There is no DDS," he said.

Duterte said the reason some of the killings remained unsolved was that there are no witnesses that could help the police identify the culprits.

He said if only witnesses were willing to help, the police could have easily arrested those behind the killings. *Eldie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao*

Top Mindanao Army officer says more JI men enter Sulu

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE MILITARY YESterday said there are more Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) operatives, who sought refuge in Sulu and nearby areas, than was previously thought.

Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga, Western Mindanao Command chief, said these JI members are operating alongside the Abu Sayyaf.

"During the Tawi-tawi incident on Jan. 6, our forces killed one of them along with several Abu Sayyaf members including Jundam Jamalul alias Black killer," Allaga said.

Dulmatin aide

He said Gufran, also known as Abu Samur, was a trusted aide of JI leader Joko Pitono or Dulmatin.

Aside from Dulmatin, the other prominent JI members now in Sulu are Umar Patek and Zulkifli Bin Hir alias Marwan in Sulu.

All three JI leaders carry a bounty of $5 million each for their capture, dead or alive.

Maj. Gen. Reuben Rafael, chief of the Task Force Comet, said the exact number of JI operatives now in Sulu and nearby areas could not be determined yet.

"But there are more or less 10 of them. That is also the main reason we have been conducting relentless operation against them," he said.

He said the military was trying its best to prevent the JI operatives from slipping out of Sulu.

"Dulmatin and Patek are still in the area based on the information we gathered," Rafael said.

Rafael said JI operatives like to seek refuge in Sulu and nearby areas such as Tawi-tawi "because of the support they get (from the Abu Sayyaf)."

In return, JI operatives provide the Abu Sayyaf with logistics and technology on bomb-making.

Funding sources

The Abu Sayyaf, a self-styled Islamist group, has also found other sources of income according to Allaga.

"They now also peddle drugs to youngsters," he said.

Rafael said at the height of Oplan Ultimatum phase 1 in 2006, more than two hectares of land planted with marijuana were discovered in Sulu.

On Monday last week, Rafael said they again discovered marijuana plants during another operation.

Chief Supt. Adzar Albani, chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Western Mindanao, confirmed that the Abu Sayyaf's terror activities are now also being funded by money from narcotics. *Julie Alipala with reports from Edwin Fernandez and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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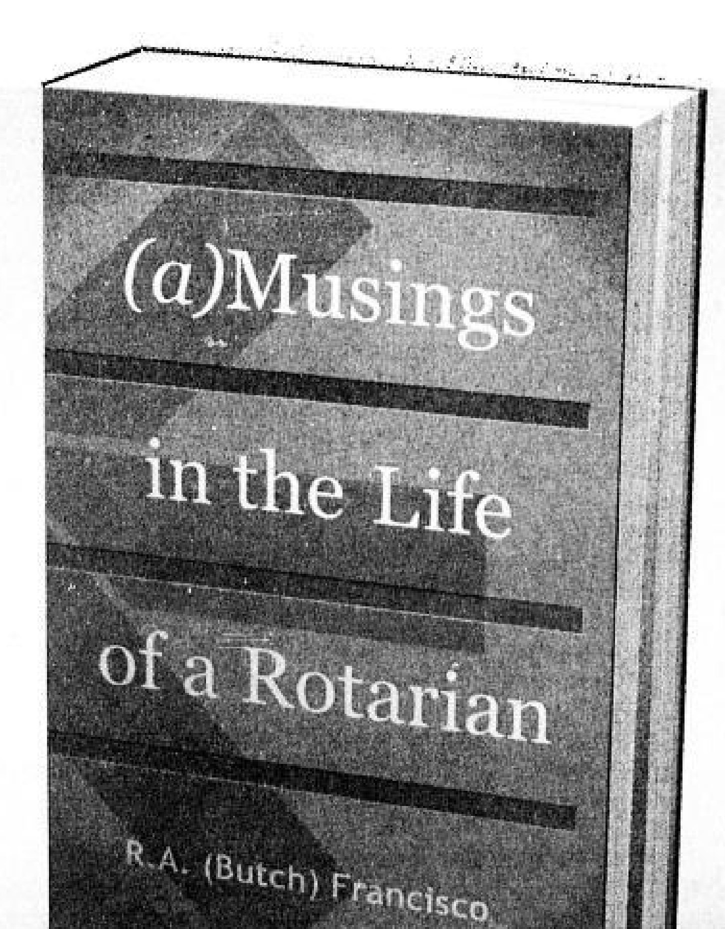
Christmas is fast approaching but late monsoon rains have been driving away customers from Burnham Lake's boat leasing operators.


(a)Musings in the Life of a Rotarian
R.A. (Butch) Francisco

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Comelec notes few bets listed for youth polls

BAGUIO CITY—Election officials are worried about the shortage of candidates in Baguio and Cordillera for the Sangguniang Kabataan elections, prompting them to believe that today's youths are not interested in politics.

ELECTION officials, led by acting Comelec chair Resurrecion Borra, defend the budget for the barangay and SK elections in Congress.
ROGER MARGALLO

"The youth seem uninterested in the SK elections. We have noticed that until now, there are many barangay which do not have candidates from barangay chair down to councilors," lawyer Armando Velasco, Commission on Elections director in Cordillera, said.

He urged the young people to file their certificates of candidacy (COC) until Oct. 18 as there are many vacant positions.

Only 20

Lawyer Maribel Uminga, election supervisor, said from the 7,000 youths who registered, less than 20 had filed their COCs.

The country's summer capital has 128 barangay so there are many positions that are available, she said.

She said since the young people are not enthusiastic to run for the SK, Comelec officials have been prodding barangay officials to convince their young residents to join politics.

Aside from the pressures of school, the youths are not inclined to run as they need to undergo drug testing—a requirement before they could file their COC, Uminga said.

Deterrent

"There is no opportunity to file because it is still school period and there is even no time for them to campaign. Drug testing is also another deterrent because it will require them to raise money," she said.

Velasco said SK officials rarely attend to their tasks because they are out of town most of the time to pursue their studies.

He said local officials might appoint their own community youth leaders if no one would run for the key positions for SK elections.

The Cordillera police are watching 63 villages in the region for possible cases of election-related violence in the barangay and SK elections.

Senior Supt. Noel Manabat, deputy regional director for operations of the Cordillera police, said certain villages in Abra, Mt. Province, Benguet and Ifugao have been placed under election watch areas (EWA) based on cases of political violence in the 2004 and 2007 elections.

Manabat said incidents of murder, harassment and intimidation of political candidates and their supporters had been reported in those areas.

Trouble ahead

"We want to prevent any possible [outbreak of] violence so we included them in the watch list. This is also for security preparations," Manabat said in a press forum on Thursday.

The watch list categorized these villages under "areas of concern" (55 villages) and "immediate areas of concern" (eight villages).

Manabat said "areas of concern" are villages where a high probability of violence is expected to break out while "immediate areas of concern" are villages where armed groups, such as the New People's Army and private armed groups (PAGs), operate.

In Pampanga, seven Central Luzon provinces are "still very peaceful and unmarred by poll violence," according to Chief Supt. Errol Pan, chief of the regional police.

Poll-related

A widow in Pilar, Bataan, however, has challenged this assessment.

Gloria Crisostomo, 45, said her 47-year-old husband Renato was killed after he decided to run as barangay captain.

"Politics is intense here in Pilar," she said. Her husband was shot dead by four men on Oct. 6 at Barangay Landing in Pilar. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

BILLBOARD CRAZY EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON
A Worker clip this gigantic canvass of an advertising company to a billboard frame in Baguio City.

CENTRAL LUZON EXERCISES

RP-US war games to resume

CLARK FREEPORT—SCALED DOWN LAST year as a custody issue hounded a US Marine convicted of raping a Filipina named "Nicole," military exercises between the Philippine and US armed forces are resuming full-scale in Central Luzon starting Oct. 15.

The two-week Talon Vision and Amphibious Landing Exercises are having 6,500 Filipino and American troops as participants, according to Col. Alejandro Camagay Jr., commander of the host unit here, the 600th Air Base Wing.

Japan based

About 3,000 American participants are coming from the Third Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Okinawa, Japan, and from the Essex Expeditionary Strike Group based in Sasebo, Japan.

They will hold ground, air and naval integration training with their Filipino counterparts.

The exercises were suspended and replaced by community outreach projects last year following the November 2005 Subic rape case.

The warships USS Essex, USS Juneau and USS Fort McHenry will be used in the exercises to be held in US military bases-turned-freeports in Clark and Subic, Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga, and Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, it was learned.

Other projects

These annual exercises, resumed under the 1998 Philippine-US Visiting Forces Agreement, aim to "improve interoperability between US forces and the Armed Forces of the Philippines as well as increase readiness and strengthen the professional relationships between the two countries."

Outreach projects such as the repair of school buildings and repainting of classrooms are scheduled in Olongapo City.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

Cops nab 3 con men

COTABATO CITY—Police arrested three suspected con men in Kidapawan City, who posed as journalists in an attempt to extort money from a businessman.

Chief Insp. Leo Ajero, city police chief, identified the suspects as Edgar Ocapan, his wife Virginia, and Ailyn Gandiano.

The three went to businessman Anthony Rivas' store here on Wednesday and claimed they were writers for the "Police Hotline Magazine."

The suspects showed ID cards to Rivas. ***Inquirer Mindanao***

Poisoning spoils end of fasting

COTABATO CITY—Five members of a Muslim family in Kabuntalan, Shariff Kabunsuan were hospitalized due to suspected food poisoning after breaking fast on Wednesday night.

Abbas Ismael, a farmer, said his family ate bread which he bought from the city as their first meal of the day.

But after eating the bread, Ismael said his wife and four children, aged four to 15, started vomiting and complained of abdominal pains.

He said he was thankful nothing serious happened to his family.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Quake rocks Ilocos Norte

LAOAG CITY—An earthquake measuring 4.7 magnitude in the Richter scale rocked this city and the town of Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, on Tuesday, five days after another earthquake struck the same areas.

Ernesto Agnir, research specialist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) in Pasuquin, said the earthquake, which struck at 3:25 p.m., was felt at Intensity 3 in this city and Pasuquin, and Intensity 2 in Sinait town. ***Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon***

Alternative energy in Catanduanes

VIRAC, Catanduanes—Six hydroelectric power plants will rise in this province, two of which would be on stream by 2010.

The Sunwest Water and Electric Co. (Suweco), contractor of the plants, said at least 7 megawatts of electricity were expected from these plants.

Suweco is one of four firms currently in the race to develop renewable energy sources on the island. Last Sept. 5, the local government of San Andres entered into an agreement with a Spanish wind energy company for the development of a wind farm in Barangay Agojo. ***Fernan Gianan, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Transport firm sacks 270 workers

PANABO CITY—A subsidiary of banana giant Dole-Stanfilco terminated 270 workers at the height of negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

Noel Morales, union president of the Davao Integrated Transport Facilities Inc. (Ditfi), Dole-Stanfilco's trucking arm, said the termination of the workers was announced on Oct. 8 by Ditfi manager Deogracias Mocam.

Ditfi was shutting down operations as a transport provider for Dole-Stanfilco. ***Jeffrey M. Tupas and Judy Quiros, Mindanao Bureau***

Cashier seen in P5M LTO fund loss

CEBU CITY—A cashier of the Land Transportation Office in Central Visayas (LTO 7) who allegedly took P5.56 million from the agency's regional office faces charges of gross dishonesty and malversation of public funds before the Ombudsman Visayas.

LTO Central Visayas legal officer Vicente Gador Jr. said the results of investigation showed that Marissa Verina, who is on Awol since September, was responsible for the loss of over P5 million in the agency's operation fund.

He said they would ask the Bureau of Immigration to place Verina in its watch list to prevent her from leaving the country. ***Jolene R. Bulambot, Inquirer Visayas***

5 babies come out of woman

DAVAO CITY—A 23-year-old woman gave birth to a set of identical quintuplets in nearby Tagum City on Wednesday, but two of the babies died, officials said.

Ramilyn Molino, a resident of Barangay Talomo, Sto.Tomas, Davao del Norte was seven months pregnant when she complained of abdominal pains, Carlito Pillerin, administrator of the Davao Regional Hospital in Tagum City, said.

"She later gave birth to a baby girl but continued complaining," he said.

Pillerin said relatives rushed Molino to the hospital, which is about an hour's drive away from Sto. Tomas.

"But while en route to the hospital, the mother gave birth to yet another girl at the ambulance," he said.

Pillerin said shortly after arriving at the hospital, Molino delivered three more babies.

Doctors were surprised because it was a rare case, he said.

Pillerin said the babies, all girls, were prematurely born and had to be put under intensive care. ***Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao***

Slain pastor's widow revives case vs Army men

LEGAZPI CITY—THE widow of a slain activist pastor on Monday revived murder charges against an Army major and 10 unidentified military men, four months after the provincial prosecutor's office dismissed the same charges filed by police.

Pastor Isaias Sta. Rosa of the United Methodist Church, who was also a member of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bicol, was shot dead by masked men outside his house in Malobago Village in Daraga town on Aug. 3, 2006.

His body was found in a nearby creek beside the body of Army Cpl. Lordger Pastrana, who was identified by Sta. Rosa family members as one of the soldiers who ransacked their house, took their cash and valuables and seized the pastor.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) filed charges against Maj. Marc Ernest Rosal, a certain Arnaldo Manjares, and 10 John Does, but the prosecutor's office trashed them for insufficient evidence on June 8.

The victim's widow Sonia decided to file the same complaint independently from the CIDG.

Police earlier theorized that Pastrana was killed by friendly fire when the attackers took Sta. Rosa.

Recovered from his body was an identification card showing that he belonged to the 9th Infantry Division, a mission order signed by Rosal, and a .45 cal. pistol registered to Manjares.

Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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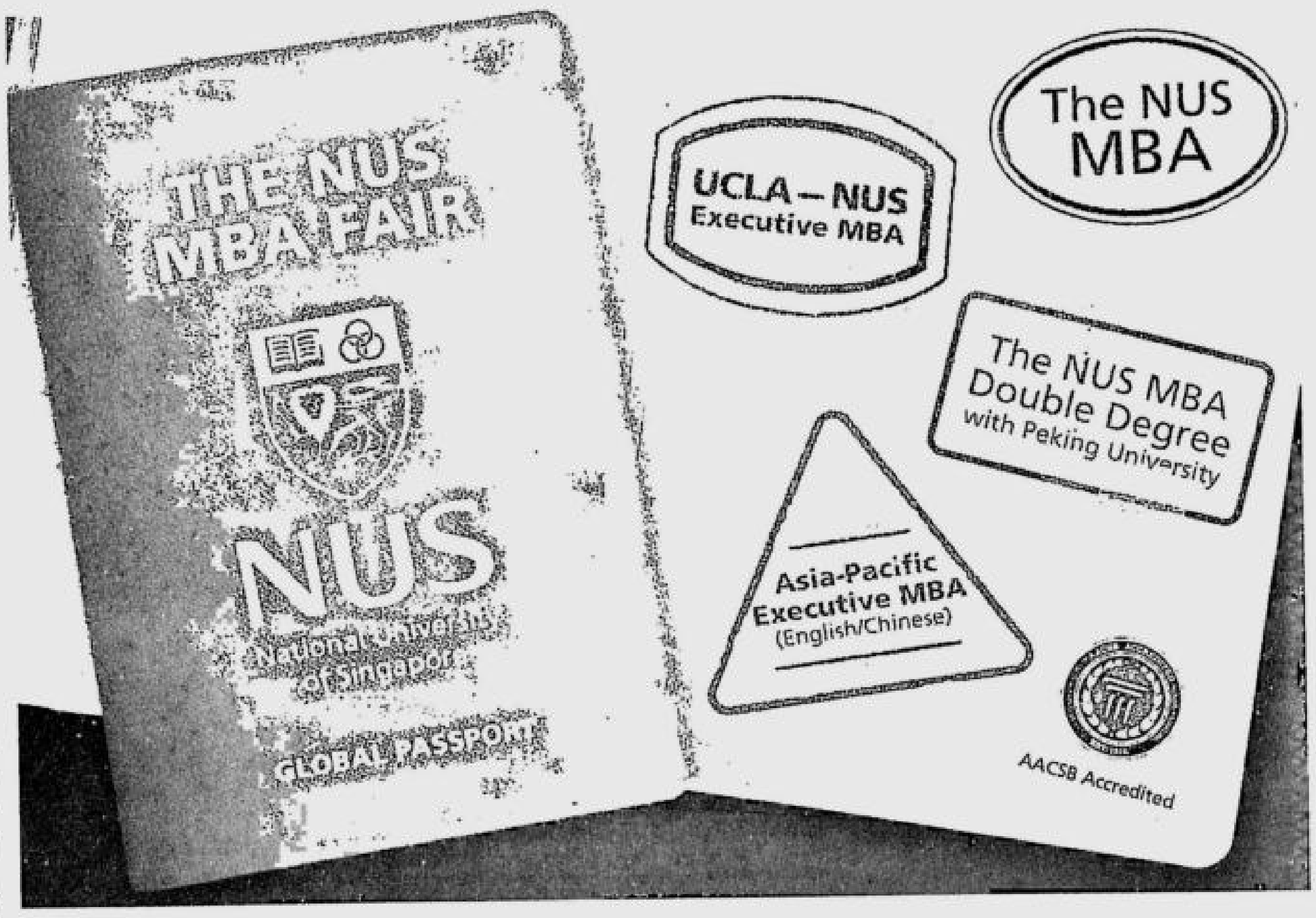
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12.30 - 14.00	The NUS MBA Double Degree with Peking University Mr Richard Rubnan Que, Manager, Marketing and Admissions, The NUS MBA	The Asia-Pacific Executive MBA Ms Kathryne Yew, Manager, The Asia Pacific Executive MBA
14.00 - 15.00	Acquisition Strategy and Corporate Success in Asia - Prof Andrew Delios, Head, Business Policy Department, NUS Business School	
15.00 - 16.30	Student Sharing - Ms Aliza Barcelis, The NUS MBA, Class of 1993 - Ms Melissa Ang, The NUS MBA, Class of 2007	Study, Live and Play in Singapore - Mr Rocson Chang, Area Director, Singapore Tourism Board
16.30 - 17.30	The NUS MBA - Mr Richard Rubnan Que, Manager, Marketing and Admissions, The NUS MBA	

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Unicef lauds SC for milk code ruling

'Victory for breastfeeding'

THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S Fund (UNICEF) said the Supreme Court decision lifting the Department of Health's absolute ban on infant formula advertisements was still a victory for infant and maternal health in the Philippines.

The Unicef focused on the sections of the National Milk Code implementing rules that the high court upheld which absolutely prohibits all health and nutritional claims for infant formula milk.

It said this will stop infant formula makers from making false or exaggerated health claims for their product.

"This signals an end to the unethical advertising claims that infant formulas increase intelligence—a strategy that has been particularly successful in undermining efforts to promote breast-feeding," said Unicef.

No ban, just regulation

In a ruling last Tuesday, the high court nullified three sections of the Milk Code's implementing rules, effectively lifting the DOH's absolute prohibition of infant formula ads.

The high court said the DOH can only regulate, not completely ban, the advertising, promotion, marketing materials and activities for breast milk substitutes for children up to two years of age.

The Unicef praised the Supreme Court for upholding the health department's authority to regulate advertisements of all products covered by the International Code on the Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.

The Unicef, the world's leading children's health organization, said the high court ruling also supports the Milk Code's ban on promotional tactics in such forms as product donations or seminars for health workers.

Strict guidelines

It said the decision also paves the way for stringent new guidelines for infant formula milk labeling.

The Milk Code provides for guidelines to help parents understand that breastmilk substitutes are not sterile and can contain "pathogenic micro-organisms."

The Unicef said the high court decision will now pave the way for the crucial work of educating families and communities about the superior benefits of breastfeeding. This work can now proceed without having to compete with "enticing billion pesos marketing schemes based on false health claims," it said.

The Akbayan party-list group yesterday said that despite the ruling lifting the ban on infant formula ads, it will still push for House Bill 154 that aims to strengthen the Milk Code and harmonize it with WHO standards. *Beverly T. Natividad*

SC gives courts DNA test powers

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS GIVEN COURTS the power to order the conduct of a DNA test to help resolve a case even if there is no request for such an action.

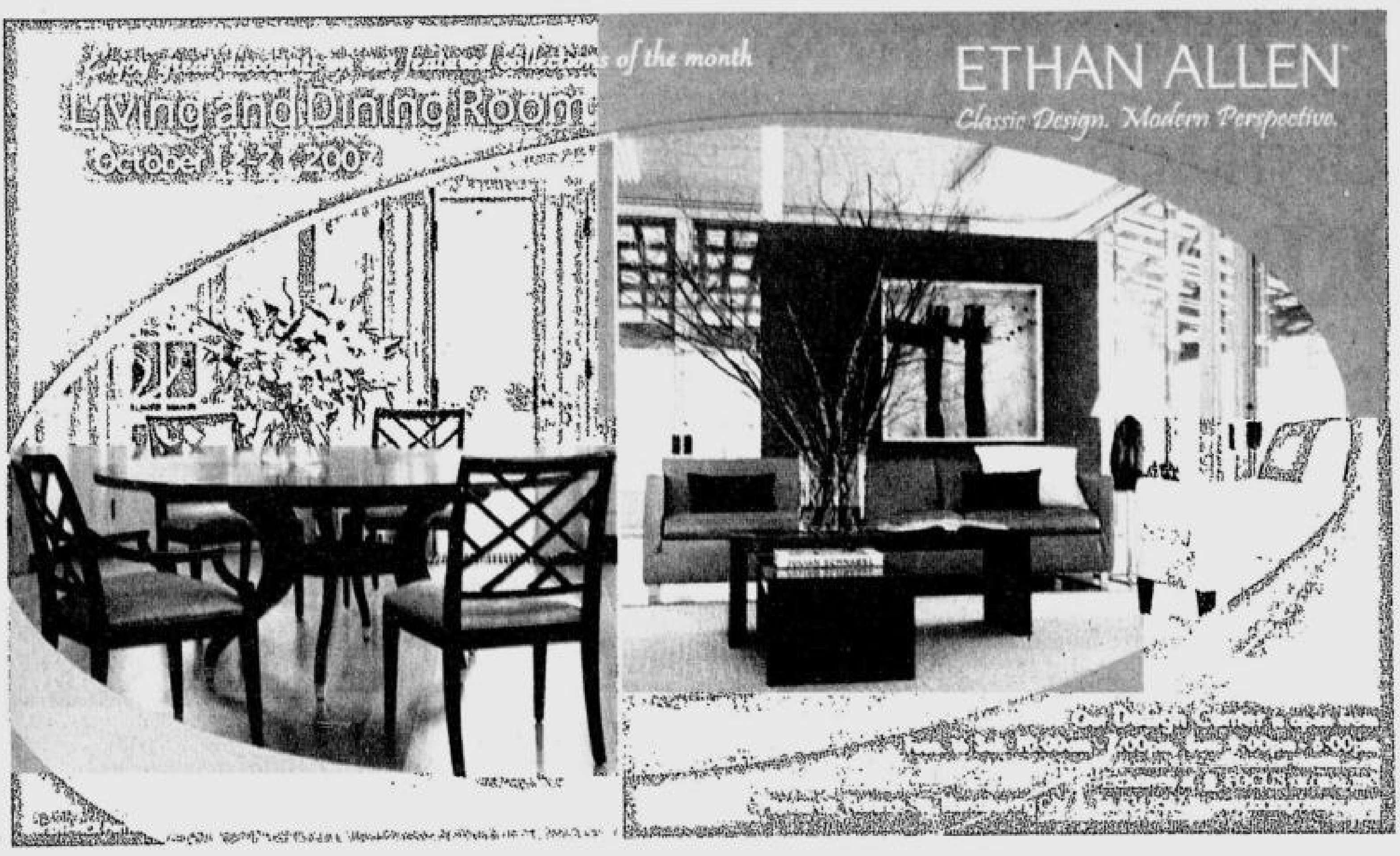
Under the high court's new rules on using DNA as evidence, DNA testing could also be done even after a person's conviction without a court order, if such a test is believed to lead to the reversal or modification of a judgment of conviction.

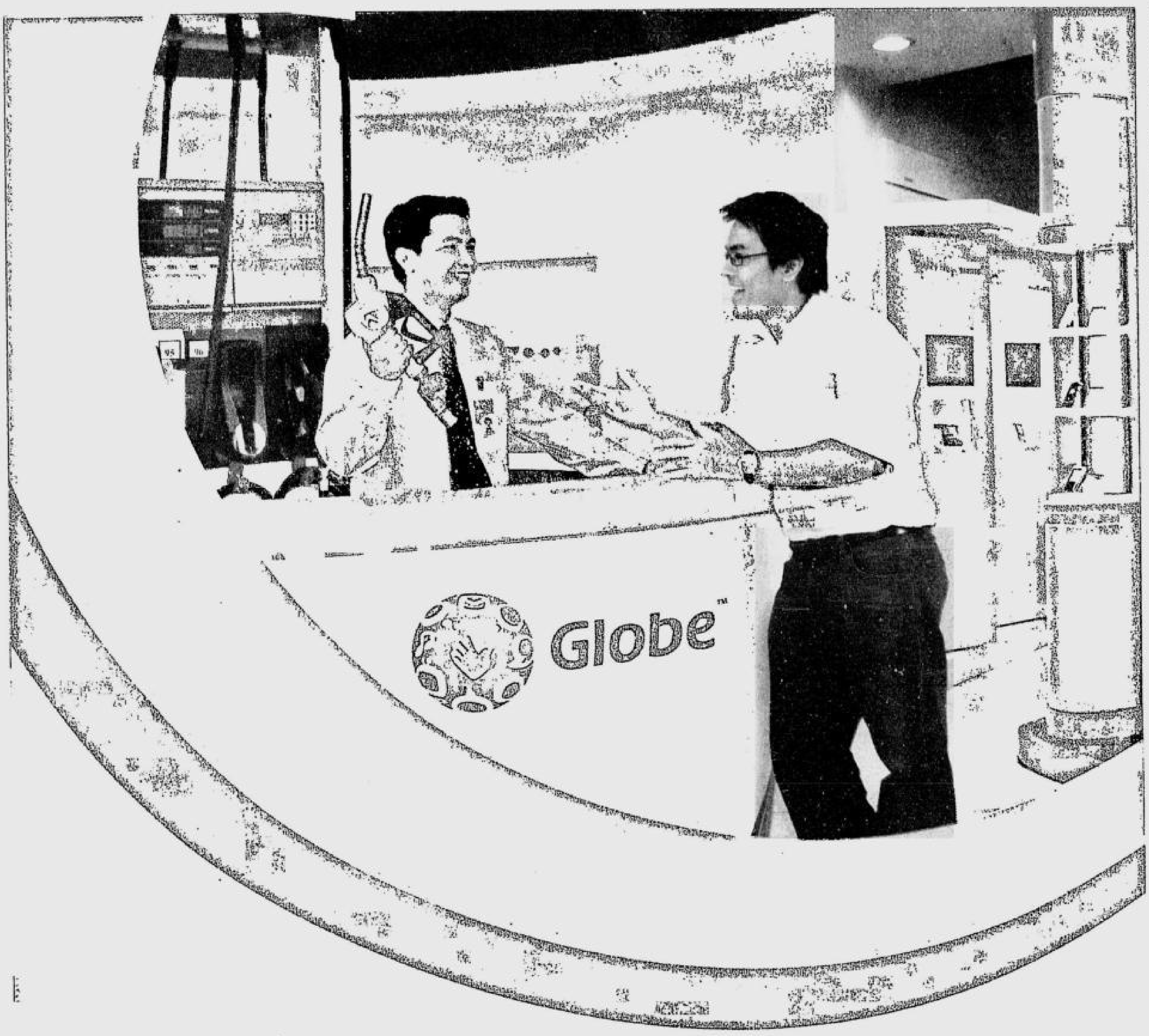
The new rules on DNA evidence will take effect on Oct. 15 and were adopted by the high court en banc on Oct. 2, the high court said in a statement.

The tribunal defines DNA evidence as the one that "constitutes the totality of DNA profiles, results and other genetic information directly generated from DNA testing of biological samples." DNA of each individual is unique, except for identical twins.

According to the rules, the court could issue an order for DNA testing after due hearing and notice to the parties.

But such an order can only be issued after it is found that the test has the scientific potential to produce new information relevant to the resolution of the case; the testing method uses a scientifically valid technique; a biological sample relevant to the case exists; the sample has not been subjected to DNA testing, or if the previous results require confirmation.





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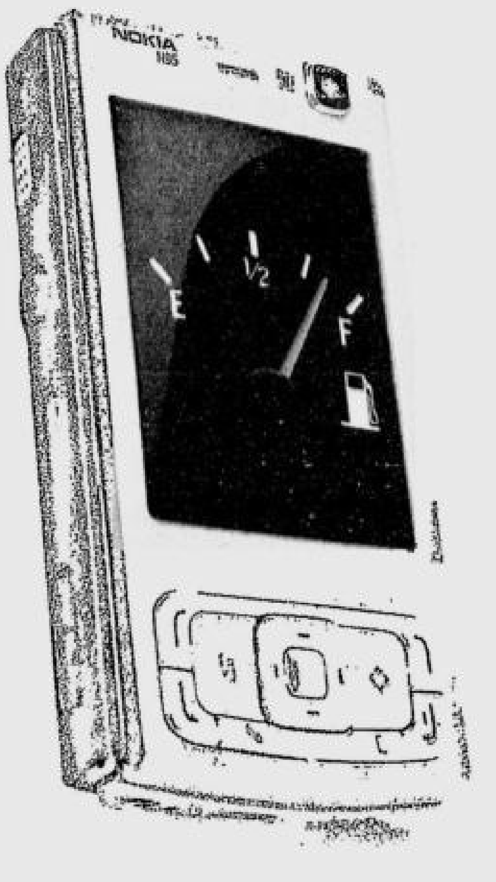

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Cops open landfill gates to garbage trucks

Prov'l, municipal officials' row over dump unresolved

By Kristine L. Alave, DJ Yap and TJ Burgonio

THE NEW LANDFILL IN RODRIGUEZ TOWN IN RIZAL WAS opened for trucks loaded with garbage after the provincial police unlocked its gates yesterday, Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III said.

"As far as we are concerned, it's fully operational," Ynares told the INQUIRER after he received a police report that protesters had left and authorities opened the gates of the 19-hectare dump.

Ynares stressed that his move to open the dump had the support of the majority of local mayors and of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

If Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo insists on blocking the use of the landfill in his town, he should get a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court, the governor said.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority tried yesterday to mediate in the row over control of the landfill between Cuerpo and Ynares. But Ynares failed to attend a meeting arranged by MMDA chair Bayani Fernando at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, MMDA general manager Robert Nacianceno said.

The governor reportedly had to meet President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang, but it was not known if the meeting was about the garbage problem.

Nacianceno said the meeting was just one of several talks planned between the agency and provincial and municipal governments to resolve the problem.

Last month, the Rizal provincial council ordered the closure of a 14-hectare landfill in Rodriguez, saying it had reached its capacity and was a risk to residents and properties around it.

The provincial government ordered the opening of the adjacent 19-hectare landfill for the exclusive use of Rizal municipalities. The new landfill was scheduled to open Monday, but a dispute over its control between the provincial and municipal governments prevented dump trucks from entering the site.

Cuerpo denied claims the smaller landfill was already full, saying provincial officials should inspect the site.

He said they would prevent trucks from entering the new landfill as it did not have environmental permits and clearances from the municipal government.

The closure of the old landfill, the destination of most of Metro Manila's trash, raised fears of a garbage crisis. The MMDA said it was looking for alternative dumps to prevent a disruption in garbage collection.

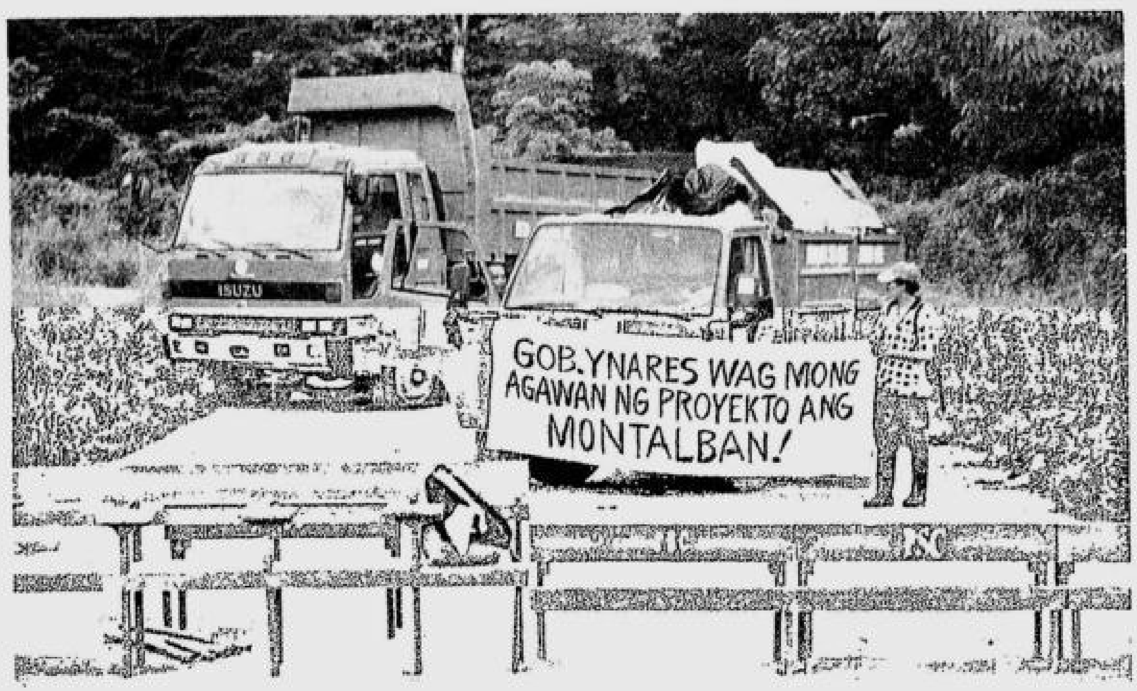
If no sites are available, Ynares said he would discuss with the MMDA the possibility of opening the new landfill to trash from Metro Manila.

Nacianceno, meanwhile, downplayed suggestions of a "garbage crisis." He said the situation in the metropolis remained manageable. Metro Manila local governments, except for Quezon City that operated Payatas, made separate arrangements with landfill operators elsewhere, he said.

The MMDA official said only Makati City had not found a dump, but Makati public affairs chief Joey Salgado said in other cities like Mandaluyong, garbage had started to fill some streets.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has threatened to dump the city's trash in front of the

COPS/ A22



A RESIDENT of Rodriguez town holds up a streamer against the closure of the landfill on orders of Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III.

RAFFY LERMA

Tullahan Bridge reopens to motorists on Monday

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE TULLAHAN BRIDGE IN VALENZUELA City will finally be open to motorists beginning Monday.

Angelito Twano, National Capital Region assistant director of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), assured the public yesterday that the bridge would be completed this weekend.

"Now, a better Tullahan Bridge will finally be open to vehicles," The DPWH official said.

The P63-million project was originally set to open in June. It was delayed because of objections from local government officials and Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla's accusations of irregularities in the project.

The alleged anomalies included supposed overpricing and grant of concession to a blacklisted contractor.

Revilla, head of the Senate Committee on Public Works, called for the dismissal of the Tullahan project director, DPWH NCR director Josefino Rigor.

The bridge was opened to pedestrian traffic late September.

Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said the date of completion was moved from June to September upon the request of local officials because of the May elections.

He denied allegations that the DPWH hired a "blacklisted contractor," adding that the project was overpriced by some P2.5 million.

Ebdane said there was no irregularity in the awarding of the P63-million project to RC Ramos Construction Co.

He said the contractor went through the regular pre-qualification and bidding process.

Twano said the DPWH Prequalification, Bidding and Awards Committee (PBAC) found that RC Ramos Construction Co. was not a blacklisted contractor and had no bad record with the department.

He assured the public that the bridge would be structurally sound because all construction materials used underwent proper testing.

The project involves the total reconstruction and elevation of the bridge to prevent water from the Tullahan River from flooding the structure during the rainy season.

Reconstruction began early this year after DPWH engineers discovered that most of the steel beams under the bridge were already corroded.

Tullahan Bridge is among four bridges in Metro Manila which the DPWH found in a dilapidated state.

The other three are Ayala Bridge and Jones Bridge in Manila and Guadalupe Bridge in Makati City.

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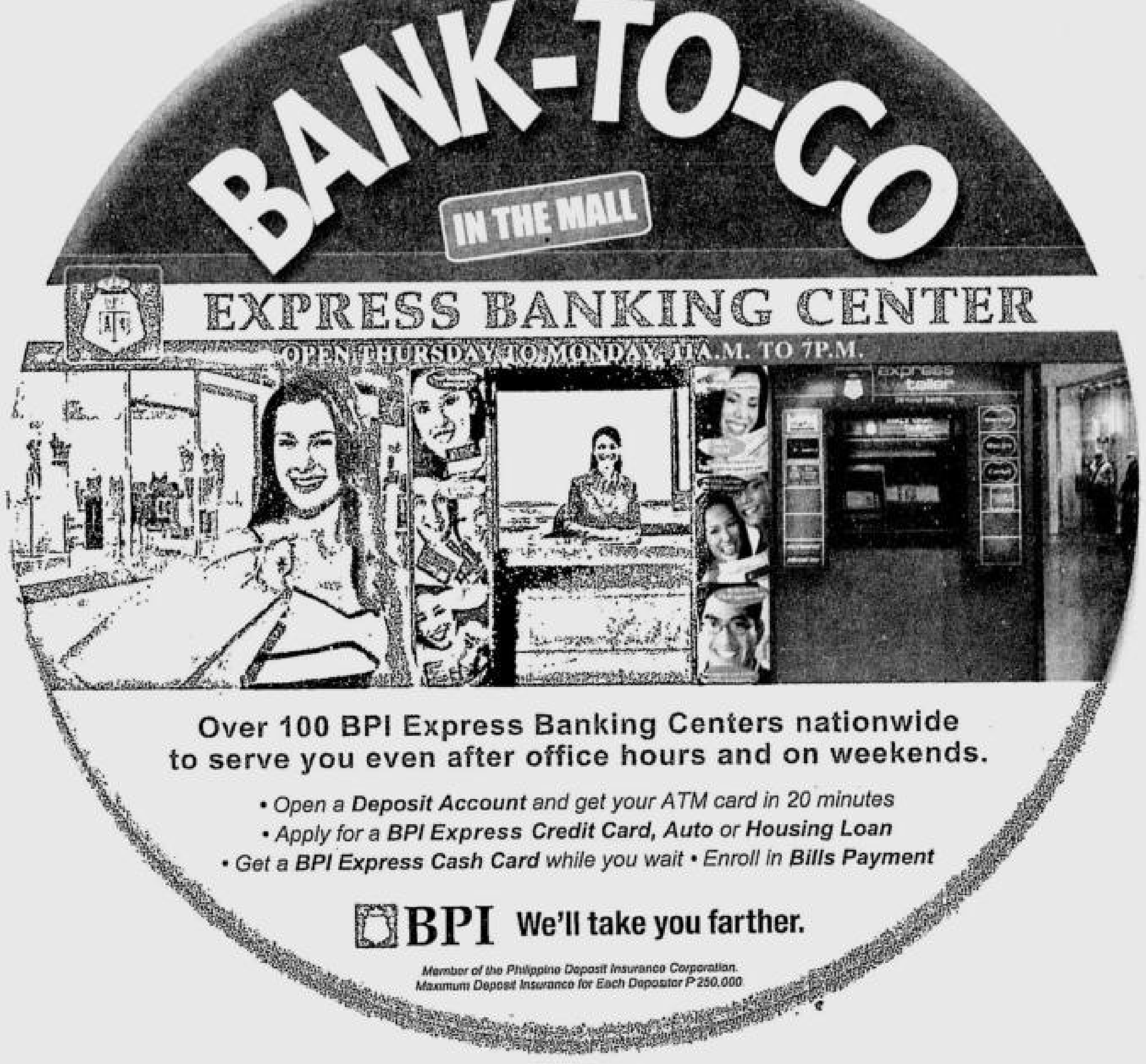
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Cops open landfill . . .

From page A21

MMDA building unless it resolve the garbage crisis immediately.

The MMDA's headquarters are on Edsa corner Orense Street, Guadalupe Nuevo in Makati.

City officials said garbage had not been picked up in Makati's secondary roads since Monday. Trash on major thoroughfares like Edsa, however, was collected.

Binay said the city was talking to landfill operators in Navotas as a possible solution. For now, trash collected in the city is brought to San Pedro, Laguna, he said.

He dismissed as ridiculous MMDA's suggestion for people to temporarily keep their garbage. "That will only cause rat infestation. We will have a public health issue on our hands," he said.

An environmental group said yesterday the closure of the Rodriguez dump should prod government officials and Metro Manila residents to reduce the production of waste.

Joey Papa, president of the Bangon Kalikasan Movement, said this was the time for Metro Manila mayors to make households, establishments, and barangays take the biggest responsibility for their waste "by preventing waste in the first place."

He proposed the setting up of barangay ecology centers where waste could be segregated, recycled and/or turned into compost.

Papa said Ynares' decision to open another landfill could lead to another "environment blight."

3 ex-Manila cops found guilty of kidnap for ransom

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THREE FORMER POLICE OFFICERS were found guilty of abducting a Chinese-Filipino businesswoman in 2003 by a Quezon City court yesterday.

PO1 Papeniano P. Razos, PO1 Casem R. Ote, and PO2 Murphy Uddin, formerly with the Western Police District were found "guilty beyond reasonable doubt" of kidnapping 72-year-old Amelia Barreto and her driver, Perry Alcarmen in July 2003.

Presiding Judge Alexander S. Balut of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 76 imposed a life imprisonment sentence on the accused for violating Article 267 (anti-kidnapping) of the Revised Penal Code amended by Republic Acts 7659 and 9346.

Conspiracy

"The court found the three guilty beyond reasonable doubt of participating in the crime of kidnap for ransom in conspiracy with each other as principals," the decision said.

Balut ordered each of the guilty parties to pay the victims' families P50,000 each for moral damages and to reimburse the P1.1 million they received as ransom.

A QUEZON City court yesterday sentenced three former officers of the Western Police District, PO1 Papeniano Razos, PO1 Casem Ote and PO2 Murphy Uddin, to life imprisonment in connection with the kidnapping of a businesswoman four years ago. JOAN BONDOC

The court based its decision on evidence from the prosecutor's primary witness, Eduardo Barreto, 49, son of one of the victims.

Eduardo told the court that at about 7 p.m. on July 19, 2003, he received a phone call from his brother Jorge informing him that their mother was not yet home from their farm in San Francisco del Monte, which she visited earlier that day.

Barreto said he became worried as his mother was usually home by 3 p.m. whenever she visited their farm. He drove there to look for her and found the gates locked and his mother's red Pajero missing.

At 3 a.m. the following day, he was awakened by a call on his cell phone from their driver, Alcarmen. Eduardo said he was able to talk to his mother who told him she had been kidnapped.

The abductors initially asked for P5 million in ransom but later agreed to accept P1.1 million.

Intelligence officer Hector Cubat of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response unit delivered the money on July 31, 2003 inside the Sto. Domingo Church compound in Quezon City.

Traced

The three were later traced through the SIM (subscriber's identification module) card number of the mobile phone they used during the negotiation for the ransom, as well as the red Toyota car they brought to collect the money.

During their arraignment, the three pleaded not guilty and said they had no idea about the whereabouts of the kidnap victims.

The kidnap victims, Barreto and Alcarmen, have not been found up to now.

Pandacan oil depot case out of our hands, says Lim

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MANILA CITY GOVERNMENT is leaving it to the Supreme Court to decide whether or not to relocate the existing oil depot in Pandacan, site of the country's three largest oil firms.

Mayor Alfredo Lim said the city government would implement whatever is decided on by the high tribunal.

"We're just waiting for the Supreme Court decision on the oil firms' motion for reconsideration. The moment the decision becomes final and executory, we have to implement it," he told reporters yesterday.

Lim said the Manila city government had no contact with oil firms Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines Inc. since the filing of the motion for reconsideration in April. Asked whether or not he thought the depot posed a danger to Manila residents, he said it was no longer a matter of anybody's opinion but that of the court.

When he first sat as Manila mayor from 1992-1998, Lim said the Pandacan oil depot was never an issue. "It was never discussed. I think the issue just came up when a related ordinance was issued," he said.

City Ordinance No. 8027 provided for the eviction of the oil firms from Pandacan with the reclassification of the oil depot's location from an industrial into a commercial zone. It took effect April 30, 2003.

To prevent the total closure of the depot, the oil firms signed an agreement with the city government to scale down its operations as well as provide a "green buffer zone" between the oil tanks and the residential area. The oil firms sought a reconsideration of the Supreme Court's March 7 decision ordering then Mayor Lito Atienza to immediately enforce Ordinance No. 8027.

The firms said the parties in the case failed to inform the high court that Ordinance No. 8027 had already been superseded by Ordinance No. 8119, which gave Petron, Shell and Chevron seven years to leave the Pandacan depot.

How can we protect them?
- Jaime Cardinal Sin

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China makes major gains in air-defense radar

BEIJING—THE BLANKET OF China's air-defense radar now almost matches similar networks in developed countries, state media reported Wednesday, in an announcement that coincided with Taiwan's first National Day military parade in 16 years.

A senior officer from Chinese Air Force headquarters, Fang Lei, said a seamless network of all-weather air defense radars had been installed to cover all Chinese airspace, according to a report on the website of the official military newspaper, the Liberation Army Daily.

The network's detection and surveillance capability was "very close" to those deployed in developed countries and could also assist Chinese forces in offensive operations, the report quoted Fang as saying.

The development of a high-performance air defense system to complement China's increasingly potent surface-to-air missiles and jet fighter interceptors has been a top priority for the People's Liberation Army, military experts say.

Senior Taiwanese and American military officers have acknowledged the improvement in Chinese air defenses as a significant indication of the country's rapid modernization of its military.

This system is a direct challenge for self-governing Taiwan as it seeks to counter the mainland's growing military power. China regards the democratic island as part of its territory and has threatened to use force under a range of circumstances, including in the case of a formal declaration of independence by the government in Taipei.

In a televised National Day speech Wednesday, Taiwan's pro-independence president, Chen Shui-bian, called on the international community to demand that China withdraw its missiles aimed at the island and halt threatening military exercises.

He also called on China to follow Taiwan's example and adopt democracy.

"We believe that only through China's democratic awakening can there be lasting peace in the world," he said.

Tensions between the two sides have been mounting over the determination of Chen and his governing Democratic Progressive Party to press ahead with a public referendum on the island's bid to enter the United Nations under the name of Taiwan rather than its official title, the Republic of China.

Senior Chinese officials have condemned the referendum as a step toward independence and warned of dangerous consequences for Taiwan.

Chen's decision to revive the traditional military parade, on the day that commemorates the 1911 overthrow of China's last imperial dynasty, was an attempt to draw attention to the threat facing Taiwan, analysts said. *NYT*

Pollution 'matter of life or death,' says Hong Kong leader

HONG KONG—HONG KONG'S leader said Thursday tackling pollution in the territory was "a matter of life and death" and conceded that failing to do so would harm the city's competitiveness in the long term.

Speaking following his annual policy address Wednesday, Chief Executive Donald Tsang pledged to improve air quality by the time he leaves office in 2012 and said he expected the full backing of China's mainland authorities.

"We are clear in our objectives. Reduction of pollution in our power plants and in the air is a common goal," he told reporters when asked about cooperation with officials in southern China.

"It is also a national priority. It is a matter of life and death in Hong Kong."

Tsang's new measures to improve pollution—which has blighted the city in recent years—include reducing the amount of sulphur, a key pollutant, in diesel used in commercial and industrial processes.

He also pledged HK$93 million (US$12 million) to clean up emissions from factories in the nearby Pearl River Delta, which are often blamed as the source of the city's worsening air.

Some business groups say the poor air quality is harming the city's ability to attract senior managers and compromising Hong Kong's position as an international finance center.

Tsang disputed this, saying the territory remained the leading recipient of direct foreign investment in the region, and that top professionals were still choosing it over rivals such as Singapore.

"But we are not complacent. In the long run (pollution) will harm our competitiveness," he said.

Tsang's policy address was criticized by environmentalists for simply tinkering with antipollution measures and failing to provide rigid targets to improve air quality.

The 63-year-old said the city's Air Quality Objectives, which date back to 1987, were currently being examined and would be updated next year. *AFP*

HONG KONG skyline, if you can see it: Viewers scan the city during a polluted day in Hong Kong on Oct. 6. AFP

Amid shrinking farmlands, Chinese may turn to potatoes

BEIJING—POTATOES MAY SOON JOIN rice as a staple diet for China's 1.3 billion people as the nation searches for alternative crops to deal with a sharp decline in farmland, state press reported Thursday.

China is facing increasing difficulties in feeding its massive population partly due to the widespread conversion of its farming areas into industrial zones and residential areas, as well as the impacts of global warming.

Potatoes, which can grow in dry areas not suitable for rice, are now being seriously looked at as a way to get more food from a smaller area, the China Daily said, citing a study from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

"A slight increase in yield for each hectare of land used in potato farming would help meet the huge food demand of the growing population," the academy's vice president, Qu Dongyu, was quoted as saying.

"Potato is definitely the most nutritious staple food. It is rich in vitamin C, B, proteins and minerals."

China's arable land has shrunk to 122 million hectares, just above the government-set "red line" of 120 million hectares that is deemed necessary to feed the country's people, state press reported last month.

Also to deal with this problem, China last month suspended a plan to plant millions of trees across the country amid worries they would have taken over the precious farmland. *AFP*

Saudi reformists want king to do more

DUBAI—SAUDI ARABIA'S KING Abdullah has just issued rules to regulate succession and overhaul the judiciary in the oil powerhouse, but reformists say any real change must bring political participation.

A group of reformists has been behind bars for months, while a prominent activist is on trial on charges of inciting a women's protest, amid an apparent crackdown on Islamist reformers.

Rules issued by the king this week to regulate the work of the Allegiance Commission, which groups members of the Al-Saud ruling family, are "just procedural steps to implement the succession law issued last year," liberal reformist and academic Khalid al-Dakhil said.

"Demands for reform go much further. They include electing the Shura Council (a 150-member all-male advisory body currently named by the monarch), turning the council into a legislative body and involving it in choosing the king and the crown prince," he said.

The rules were announced days after the king approved a body of laws reorganizing the judicial system, a move expected since Saudi Arabia, which applies a strict version of sharia (Islamic law), joined the World Trade Organization in December 2005.

Walid Abul Khair, an activist specializing in Islamic jurisprudence, said the key change in the revamped judicial system is that it mandates a proposed supreme court to oversee the implementation of the provisions of sharia by judges and the laws issued by officials.

But it does not detail how this will be done.

Islamist activist Mohammad bin Hudeijan al-Harbi said the succession rules "exclude any role for the people, who are the source of power under sharia."

The succession process does not provide for a mechanism to implement the Islamic principles of "justice and shura (consultation)," which need to be put in practice through "a shura council elected by the people," he said.

Saudi Arabia is ruled by an absolute monarchy and prohibits political parties. It has not conducted elections since landmark male-only municipal polls were held in 2005. *AFP*

Report recounts horrors of US youth boot camps

WASHINGTON—REPORTS OF abuse of troubled young people in privately run boot camps and other residential treatment centers are widespread, with examples numbering in the thousands, according to a federal report released Wednesday.

The report also found that managers of these programs, which are largely unregulated, faced little or no punishment for their actions.

The report by the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, examined the cases of 10 teenagers who died while at programs in six states, finding "significant evidence of ineffective management" and "reckless or negligent operating practices." The report detailed evidence that teenagers were starved, forced to eat their own vomit, and to wallow for hours in their own excrement.

In one instance, a boy was so dehydrated that he ate dirt to survive, according to witnesses and an autopsy.

Investigators also found that owners and employees were seldom sent to prison, even when teenagers died in their care. Five of these programs are still in operation, some under new names or in other states.

The report was released at an emotionally wrenching hearing of the House education committee, where lawmakers heard from the parents of three teenagers who died. Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., who is head of the committee, said he planned to introduce legislation early next year to create a federal role in regulating the industry, a move that the ranking Republican, Rep. Howard P. McKeon of California, said he would most likely support.

The report is a harsh rebuke to industry defenders, like the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs, a trade group that has dismissed accusations of abuse and death as "the noisy complaints of a few individuals." Its director, Jan Moss, told lawmakers Wednesday that the group did not police its members but that she would take the findings of the federal report to her board to "review them in depth."

Residential treatment programs for troubled teenagers seek to straighten out these youths far from home by forcing them into wilderness settings and exposing them to harsh behavior modification techniques. About 10,000 to 20,000 young people are enrolled in these programs, which cost from $130 to $450 a day, the report said. *NYT*

Student, 14, shoots 4 then kills self at US school

CLEVELAND—DISGRUNTLED about having been suspended on Monday after a fight, a 14-year-old student shot and injured two students and two teachers at a downtown Cleveland high school on Wednesday before fatally shooting himself, the authorities said.

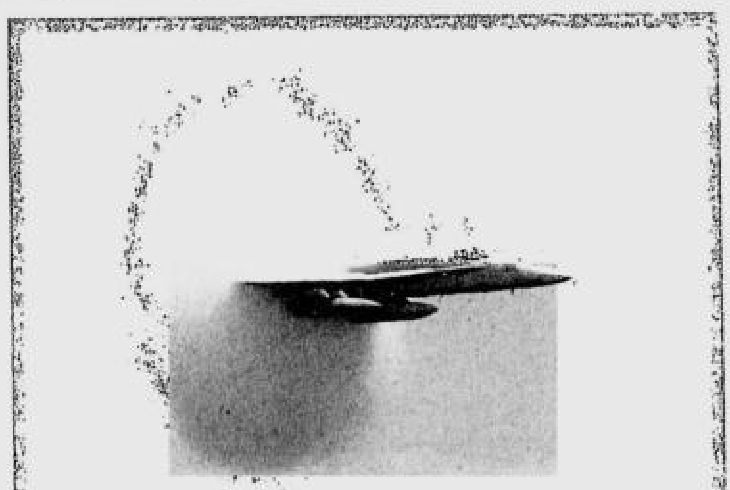
None of the victims' injuries were considered life-threatening.

The gunman was identified as Asa H. Coon, a freshman at the school, SuccessTech Academy.

The police and school officials said that around 1:15 p.m., Coon arrived at the school armed with two handguns, a .38 and a .22 caliber, and that he began working his way up two flights of stairs before opening fire in a crowded hallway on the third floor.

Within minutes, the principal announced a "code blue" over the intercom, leading some students to flee into the halls, while others hid in closets and under desks.

"Shut up, shut up; I hate this school," the gunman said, according to Mychael Wilmore-Smith, 14, a sophomore who was in a fourth-floor classroom when the gunman arrived on her floor and began firing. *NYT*



BREACHING THE BARRIER

Photo released by the US Navy shows Lt. Ron Candiloro, assigned to Fighter Squadron One Five One, breaking the sound barrier in an F/A-18 Hornet on July 7, 1999. AFP

Chemistry Nobel winner Gerhard Ertl a catalyst for industry

ERTL REUTERS

PARIS—CALL HIM THE CATALYST.

German scientist Gerhard Ertl was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry on Wednesday for pioneering the toolkit used by entire industries to harness the reactions that occur when chemicals interact on a surface.

The even bigger achievement was figuring out how to speed these reactions up—a process called catalysis.

"That may sound like a mundane thing, but catalysis is crucial to everyday life," said Mark Peplow, the editor of Chemistry World, a journal of the British Royal Society.

From the chemical sorcery used to make the semiconductors that power computers, to the admix of gases and iron that yield fertilizer and the molecular magic that neutralizes toxic vehicle exhaust—catalysis is at the heart of a thousand and one manufacturing processes.

"The chemical industry could not function as it does without it. Pretty well all the chemicals that we use in our daily lives are made by this process," said John Foord, a professor at Oxford University.

"Ertl has made a fundamental contribution to understanding how its basic mechanisms take place," he said, adding that some 90 percent of the chemical industry's output used research techniques initiated by the Nobel laureate.

The Nobel committee singled out Ertl's experiments into the so-called Haber-Bosch process, which is the fundamental step for making artificial fertilizer.

The way in which nitrogen reacts with hydrogen on an iron surface to make ammonia has been known since World War I, when its applications for making explosives and synthetic fertilizer staved off Germany's collapse and prolonged the fighting, according to some historians.

But scientists had no idea of what was happening at the molecular level.

Ertl not only explained the process, he also found out that adding potassium at a key phase in the cycle helps to split molecules of nitrogen, thus speeding the business up.

The old way of doing chemistry, before Ertl came along, was to "throw some metal and gas together to see what happens. Ertl allowed us to do this strategically," Peplow said.

The methods pioneered by Ertl in the 1960s "allowed scientists to go and do exactly the same thing for lots and lots of other things."

These techniques included bouncing infrared lights off surfaces to make measurements and conducting controlled experiments inside vacuums, making it possible to get a single layer of molecules to sit on the surface of a catalyst. *AFP*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Judge suspends Bush effort on illegals

A FEDERAL JUDGE IN SAN FRANCISCO ORDERED an indefinite delay on Wednesday of a central measure of the Bush administration's new strategy to curb illegal immigration.

The judge, Charles R. Breyer of the Northern District of California, said the government had failed to follow proper procedures for issuing a new rule that would have forced employers to fire workers if their Social Security numbers could not be verified within three months.

Breyer chastised the Department of Homeland Security for making a policy change with "massive ramifications" for employers, without giving any legal explanation or conducting a required survey of the costs and impact for small businesses.

Under the rule issued by the department, which had been scheduled to take effect on Sept. 14, employers would be forced to fire workers within 90 days after receiving a notice from the Social Security Administration that an employee's identity information did not match the agency's records. Illegal immigrants often present false Social Security information when applying for jobs.

The rule, announced with fanfare in August by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, was the linchpin of the administration's effort to crack down on illegal immigration by denying jobs to the immigrants. It is part of a campaign of stepped-up enforcement since broader immigration legislation favored by President Bush was rejected by Congress in June.

If allowed to take effect, the judge found, the rule could lead to the firing of many thousands of legally authorized workers, resulting in "irreparable harm to innocent workers and employers."

The decision brought a sense of relief to the unusual coalition behind the lawsuit, including the AFL-CIO and the US Chamber of Commerce, normally adversaries.

They had feared that the measure would bring mass layoffs in low-wage industries, sweeping up both illegal and legal workers and disrupting the labor force. Breyer's decision was an awkward disappointment for Chertoff, a former federal judge, who was relying on the rule as an enforcement tool since Congress left him with few other options. *NYT*

Burma to hold gems sale despite boycott call

RANGOON—MILITARY-RULED Burma (also known as Myanmar) said Thursday it would auction off its world-renowned gems and jade next month, despite growing calls for a boycott on its precious stones—a major money-spinner for the junta.

The Nov. 7-19 auction will be the fifth such sale this year, the official New Light of Myanmar newspaper said.

Each auction attracts buyers from around the world who spend as much as $100 million, making the gem sales a key source of revenue for the cash-strapped regime.

The announcement comes in the wake of the biggest antigovernment rallies in nearly 20 years and a subsequent crackdown by security forces that left at least 13 dead, sparking international condemnation.

One of the poorest countries in the world, Burma supplies up to 90 percent of the world's rubies and has rich jade deposits that are highly prized in neighboring China.

Despite sanctions on the regime, many stones from Burma are smuggled through neighboring Thailand, where they are often cut and polished for eventual sale in the United States or Europe.

Iconic New York jeweler Tiffany's is among the few that refuses to sell stones from Burma, but the industry group Jewelers of America this week asked the US Congress to specifically ban all gemstones mined in Burma.

"Jewelers of America members believe it is their responsibility to support and respect the protection of international human rights within their sphere of influence and to make sure the sourcing of gemstones is not complicit in human rights abuses," said the group's president Matthew Runci.

Cartier also said this week that it had stopped buying gems which might have been mined in Burma until further notice.

For the past 700 years, the so-called "Valley of Rubies" in the Mogok region of northeast Burma has been mined for "pigeon blood" rubies—considered the finest in the world—as well as for sapphires and other rare gems.

A top-notch ruby can cost more per carat than a diamond, making it a must-have accessory for the newly rich in Asia, Russia and the Middle East.

Last year, an 8.62-carat Burmese ruby fetched a record price of $3.7 million—or $425,000 per carat—at a Christie's auction.

Imperial jade—emerald-green in color—is another Burma treasure highly sought by the Chinese, the main customers for the country's gems.

The stones are mined at a huge human cost, with reports of horrific working conditions in Burma's ruby mines, which outsiders are forbidden to see.

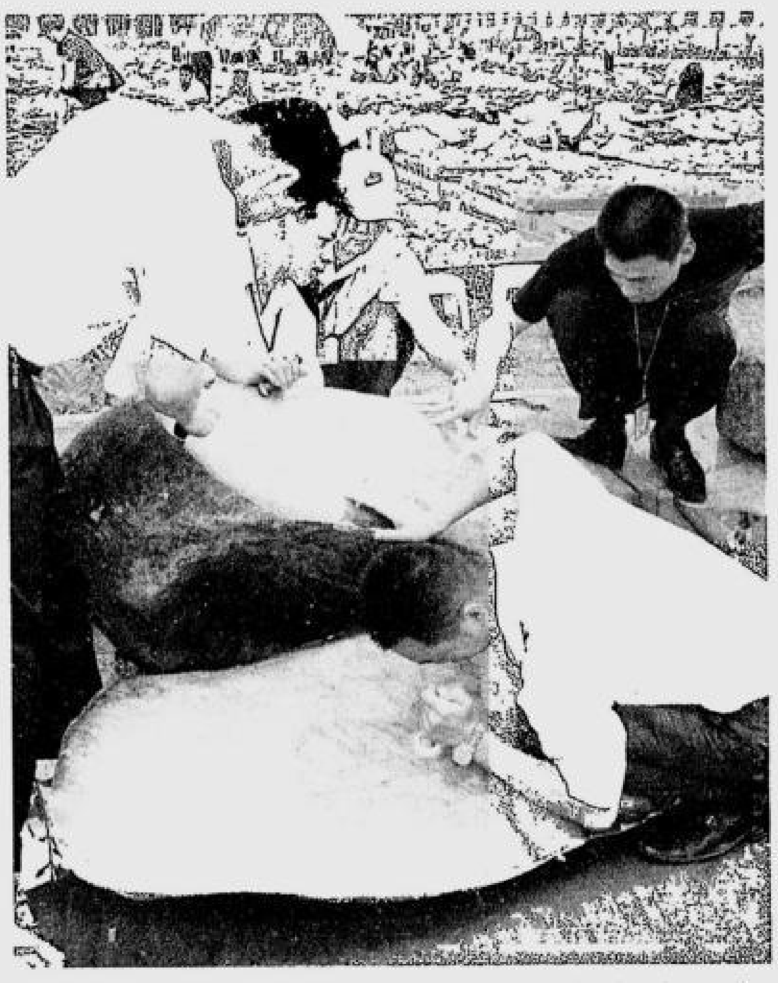
Groups of Burma exiles want a boycott of the junta's gems auctions, claiming that mine owners rely on forced labor.

There are also reports of soaring AIDS infection rates among mine workers due to needle-sharing by heroin addicts and widespread prostitution, with drugs shipped in by local traffickers, according to the US group Campaign for Burma.

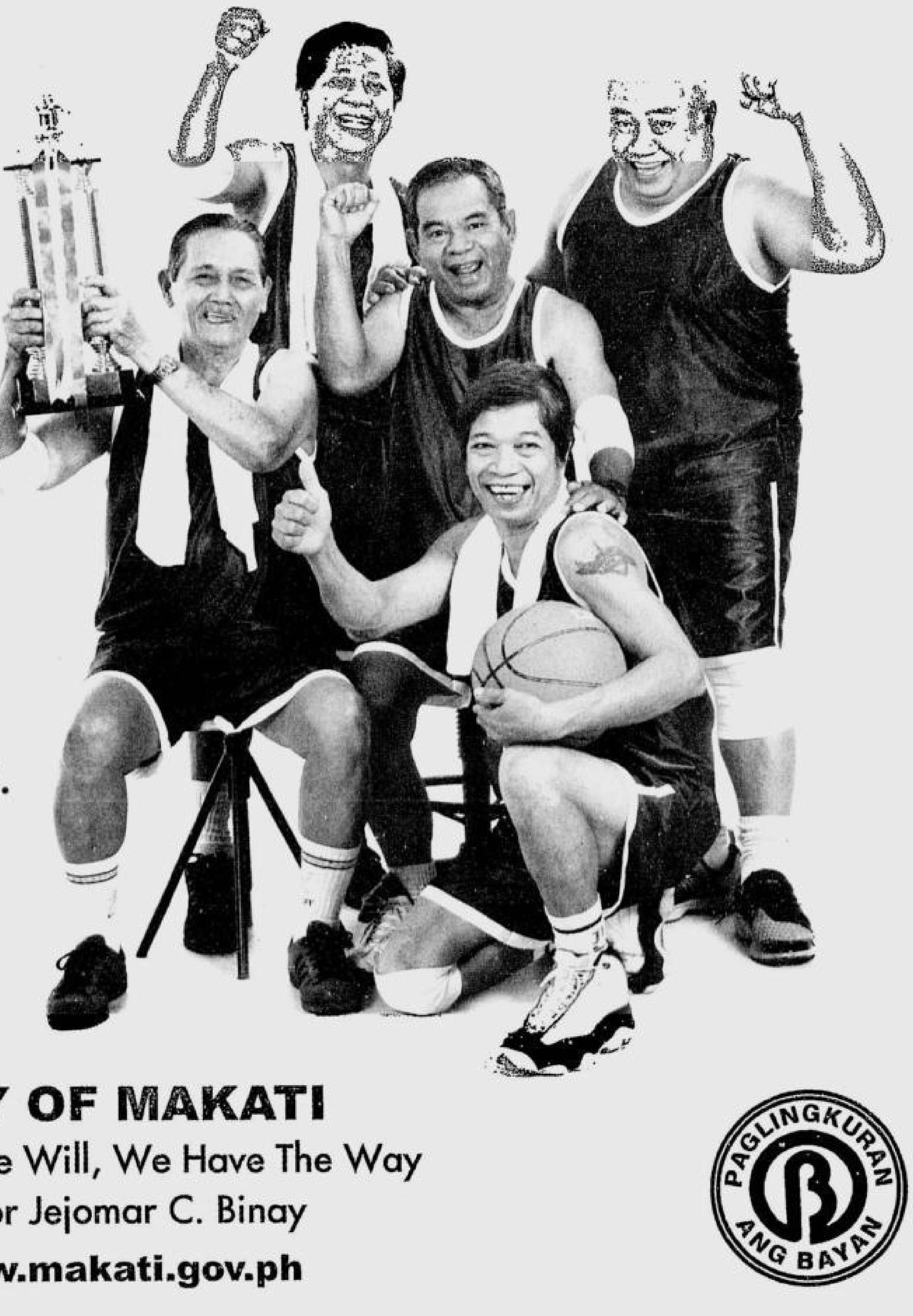
"Burma's gem industry is dominated by the military regime and its cronies," said Jeremy Woodrum, the group's director.

"No one with a conscience should buy a ruby because it is almost assuredly from Burma." But Burma's auctions usually attract hundreds of buyers, especially from China and Thailand, although obtaining a visa has become more difficult since the crackdown.

Burma holds the auctions to try to stifle the thriving black market trade in gems, but many precious stones are still smuggled over to Thailand. *AFP*



PICTURE taken June 24, 2006, shows merchants evaluating the quality of gems and jade at an auction in Burma's largest city Rangoon. AFP



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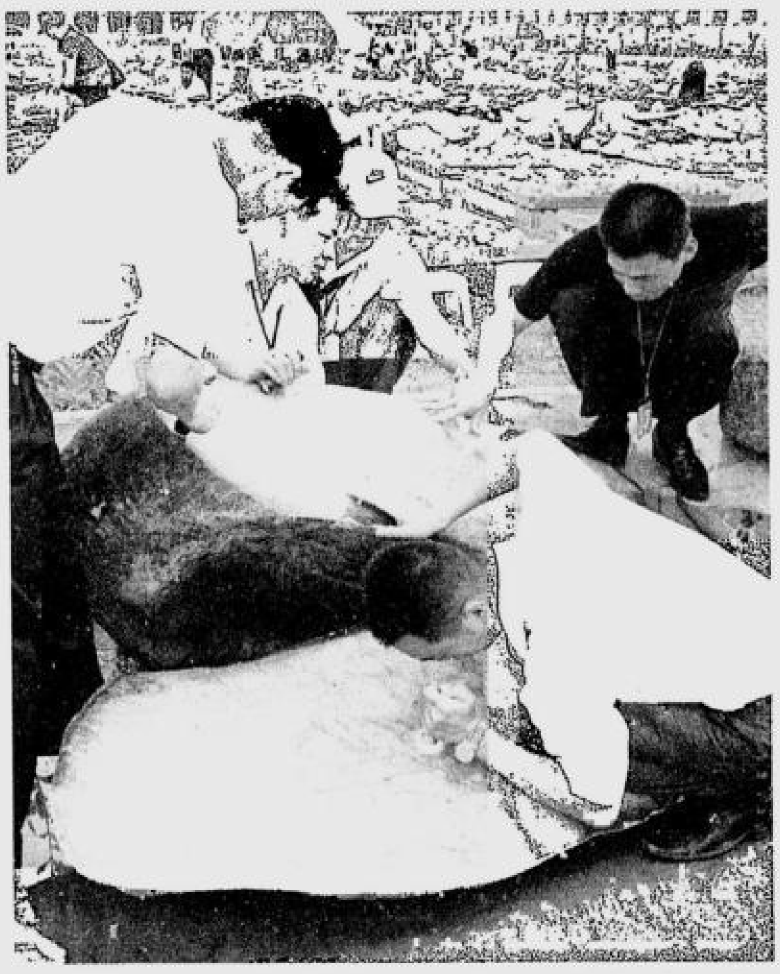

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Pacquiao wants unbeaten Valero

Says Venezuelan WBA champ too cocky

By Recah Trinidad

GUAM—MANNY PACQUIAO WANTS WBA SUper featherweight champion Edwin Valero for his next fight.

VALERO

The Filipino boxing celebrity told the GMA news team during a refueling stopover here on his way home Thursday morning that he is keen on fighting Valero in February next year.

The clash with the cocky, unbeaten Venezuelan, who boasts a fearsome record of 22 knockouts in as many fights, could take place in Vancouver since Valero is not allowed to fight in the United States.

"Excited na ako, nakapanggigigil (I'm excited, I can't wait to fight him)," a grinning Pacquiao exclaimed at the first-class section of Flight PR 103 that brought him home from Los Angeles.

"I'm willing to stay at 130 pounds if just for

PACQUIAO/ A26

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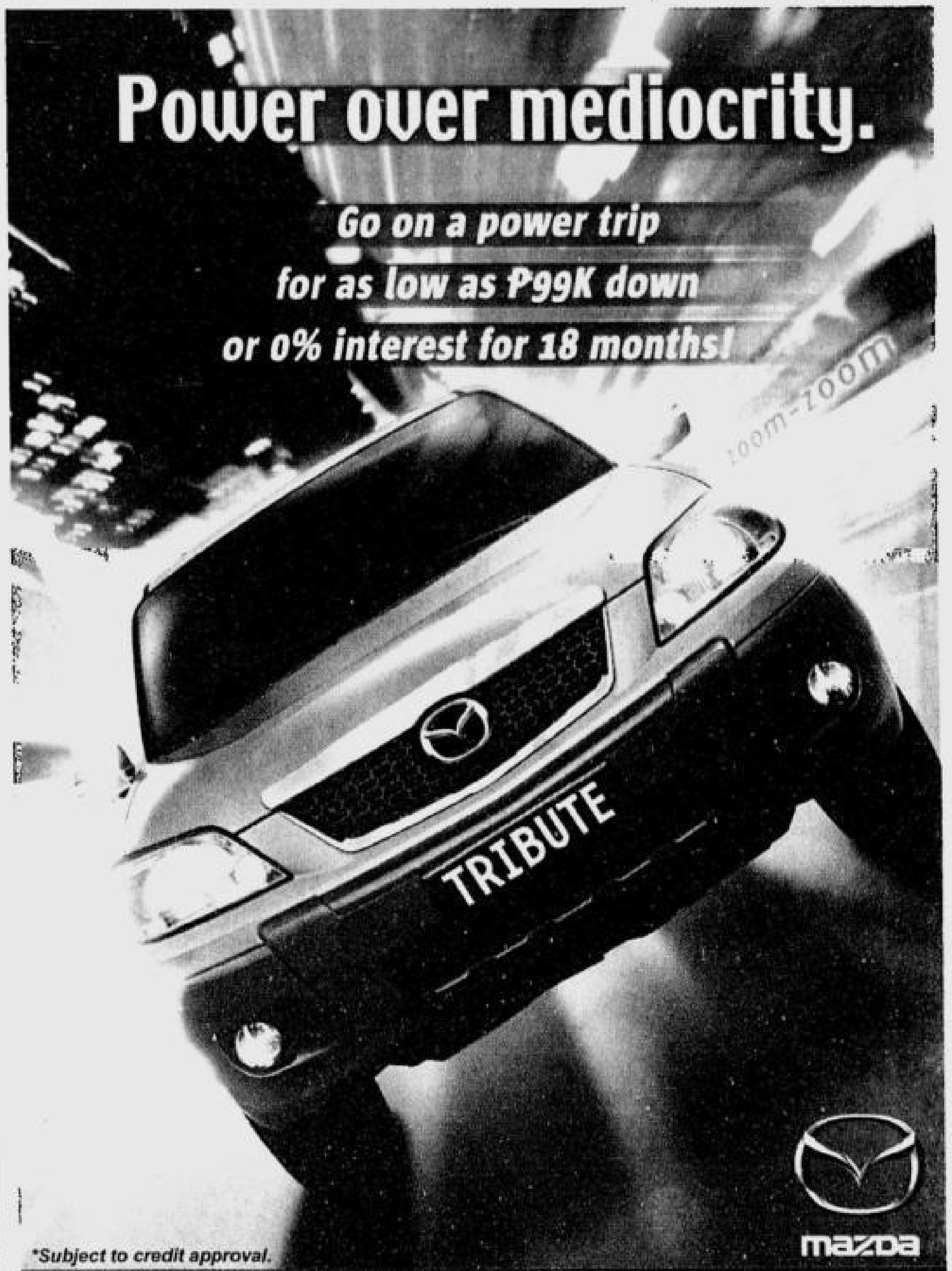
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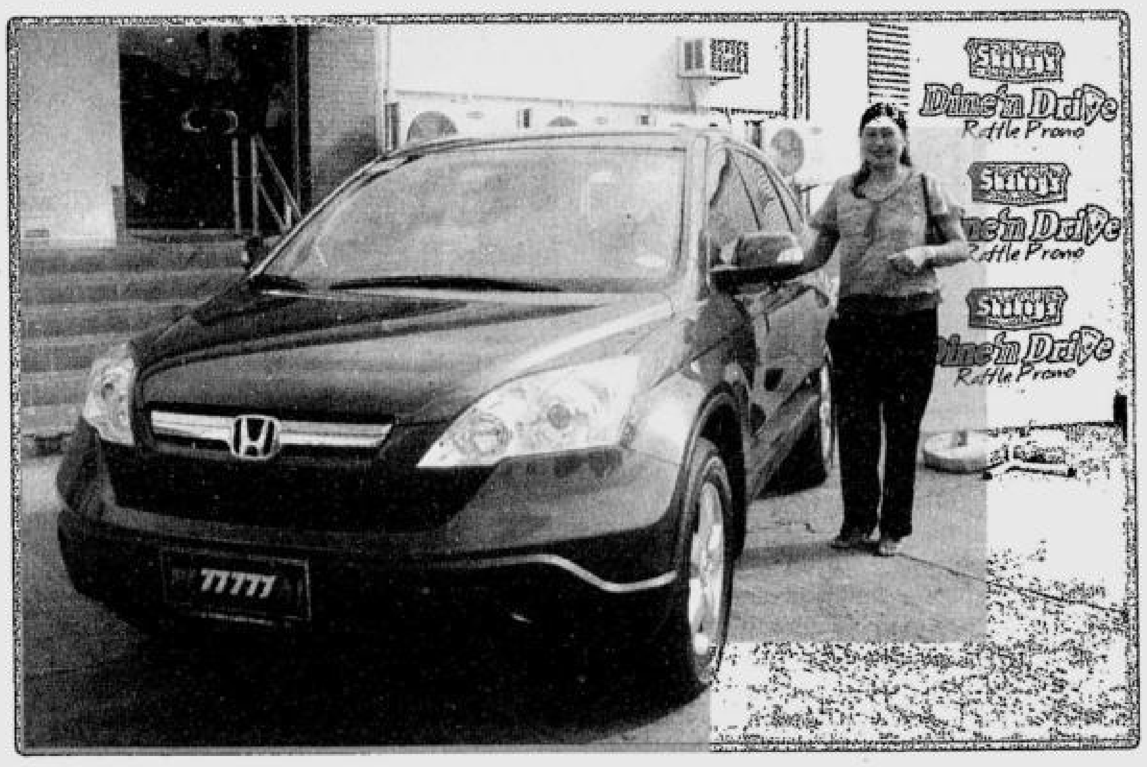
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Dec. 8 rematch for Peñalosa?

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

REIGNING WBO BANTAM KING Gerry Peñalosa may get his cherished rematch with WBO superbantamweight champion Daniel Ponce De Leon earlier than expected if he agrees to a proposed Dec. 8 showdown with the power-punching Mexican.

The rematch is slated to be on the undercard of the Dec. 8 Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Ricky Hatton superbout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada, which also hosted history's richest boxing event, the May 5 Oscar De la Hoya- Mayweather battle.

Reports coming out of Las Vegas said that only the question of the purse money being offered to Peñalosa is holding up the projected rematch.

"The money being offered is reasonable, but Peñalosa believes that, considering the caliber of Ponce De Leon, he should be given an amount commensurate to the risk involved," a source told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Earlier reports said the Peñalosa-De Leon fight is being planned to take place in February in the Philippines.

Another Mexican fighter, ex-world champ Jorge Arce, has also expressed interest in fighting the Peñalosa.

Arce is said to have tried to start a fight at the Mandalay Bay last Sunday when he approached the Filipino boxing champ right after the Pacquiao-Barrera showdown, and verbally challenged him to a fight.

PEÑALOSA

So eyes revenge vs Wang

Standings after Round 7:
6.0 points—GM Ahmed Adly (Egypt); 5.5—GM Victor Laznicka (Czech Republic); 5.0—**IM Wesley So (Philippines)**, GM Wang Hao (China), GM Maxim Rodshtein (Israel), GM Georg Meier (Germany), GM Daniel Stellwagen (Netherlands), GM Ivan Popov (Russia), GM Parimarjan Negi (India), IM Avetik Grigoryan (Armenia), IM Gopal Narayanan (India)

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER Wesley So tries to get back on track in the World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships at the Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia, when he meets top seed Chinese Grandmaster Wang Hao in the eighth round Thursday.

So, handed his fist loss by solo leader Egyptian GM Ahmed Adly in the seventh round, is hoping that Wednesday's break will serve him in good stead when he handles black against Wang, co-champion of the recent 6th Asian Individual Chess Championship.

With six rounds to go, So shares third place with Wang and seven others at 5.0 points. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

PBL season glimmers with college stars

By Jasmine W. Payo

A LEAGUE ROOKIE TAKES ON A VETeran crew when the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) First Conference kicks off on Oct. 20 at The Arena in San Juan.

Newcomer Pharex and San Mig Coffee (formerly San Miguel-Magnolia) will clash at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. dispute between Toyota Balintawak and Bacchus Energy Drink on the first day of the season opener.

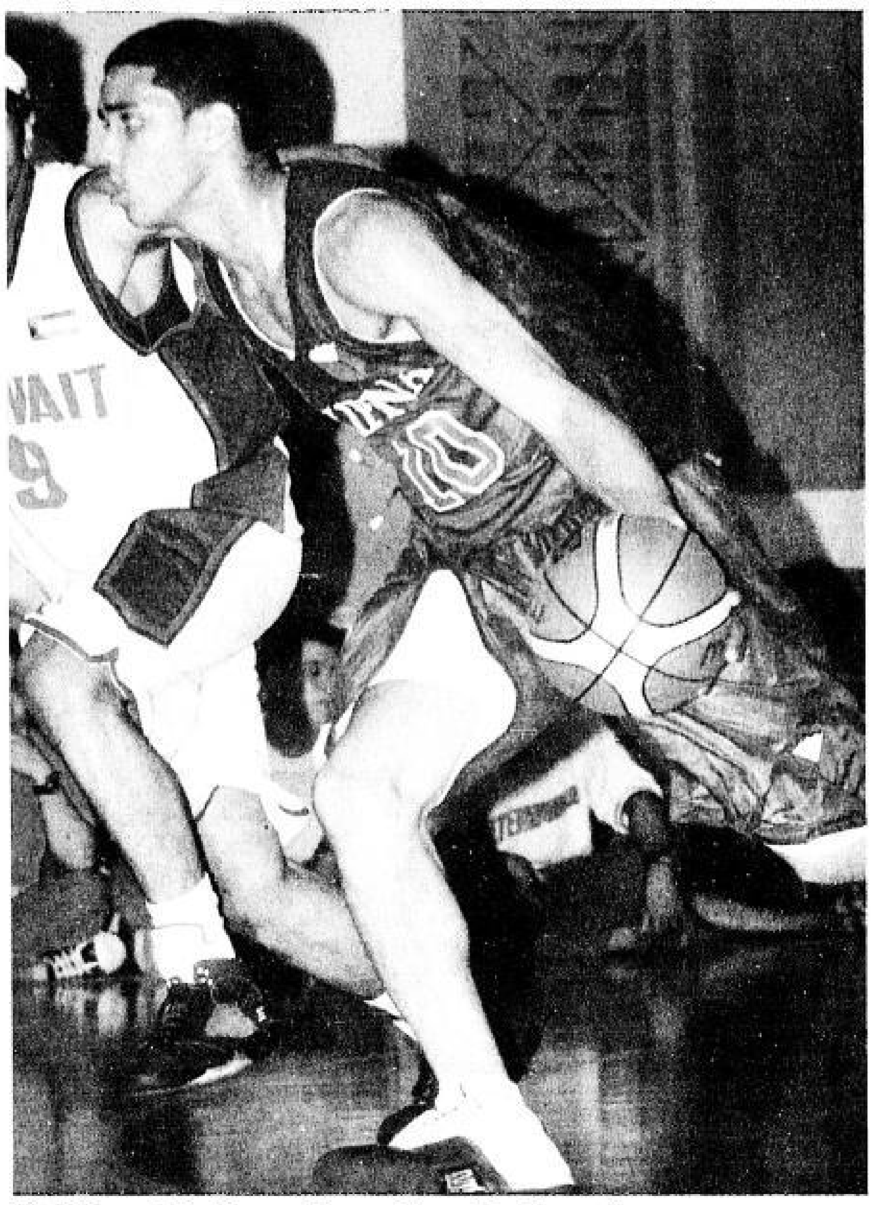
PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad expects "a wide open race for the championship" since the league loaned several of its stars—including back-to-back Most Valuable Player Jason Castro—to the Harbour-RP team set to see action in the Southeast Asian Games.

But more standouts are expected to emerge from the new batch of rookies led by 6-foot-5 Fil-Am guard Gabe Norwood and San Beda's John Hermida of Hapee, Ateneo center Ford Arao of San Mig Coffee, University of the East's James Martinez of Bacchus and Jose Rizal's James Sena of Toyota Balintawak.

"The endearing exploits of some of the finest collegiate players are expected to spill over in the PBL considering that most of them will see action," said Trinidad.

According to executive director Butch Maniego, the league will also hold a one-week tournament which will pit the Harbour-RP team against a foreign team and other invited squads.

Aside from missing Castro, three-time champion Harbour Centre will have to do without Beau Belga, Jonathan Fernandez and Chad Alonzo, while newcomer Lina Group of Companies also loaned a prized recruit—UAAP MVP Jervy Cruz of UST—to the national five.


FIL-AM star Gabe Norwood boosts Hapee Toothpaste lineup. ROMY HOMILLADA

Aunzo's 73 enough to thwart Bibat

AUNZO: By one shot

LIPA CITY—FERDINAND AUNZO FAILED to break par for the first time in three days with a 73 yesterday but it proved enough to fend off Mike Bibat and earn him the fourth leg crown of the Pilipinas Amateur Golf Tour presented by Samsung at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club course here.

Counting his back-to-back 71s earlier, Aunzo pooled a one-under 215 total and bested fellow ICTSI-supported Bibat, who closed out with a 72, by one shot in the Championship division of the course-hopping event.

The 27-year-old Aunzo, the reigning Sabah Amateur Open champion, highlighted the dominance of the ICTSI players who wound up occupying five of the first eight slots.

Venjo Reyes broke the ICTSI stranglehold by firing a day-best 70 and clinching third place with a 218 aggregate. South Koreans Jae Minkoo (78-224) and Sung Bin-yoon (74-225) wound up fifth and seventh, respectively.

ICTSI's Miko Alejandro skied to a 79 and tumbled to fourth at 223, beating teammates Dante Bisera, who was sixth with a 76-224, and reigning RP Open Amateur champ Anthony Fernando, who was eighth with an 82-228.

The Class A title went to Chris Palanca, who carded a 78 for a 36-hole total of 158. Palanca bested South Korean Suk Bum-kang, who managed an 84 for a 159 total.

Jimmy Sto. Tomas shot his second straight 82 and clinched the Class B crown at the expense of Bing Tolentino, who fired an 83 for a 165 total.

No one won the Samsung 32-inch LCD TV dangled as a hole-in-one prize in the event organized by the Professional Sports Management Inc. The fifth and concluding leg will be held at Sherwood Hills from Nov. 26-29.

Pacquiao wants unbeaten Valero

From page A25

one fight to accommodate his (Valero) repeated challenges," added Pacquiao.

He noted that Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera, whom he whipped in the "Will to Win" card at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, had also declared that "Valero has got what it takes to beat Pacquiao."

Pacquiao fought Barrera at the super featherweight limit of 130 lbs. The Filipino superstar, however, raised the possibility of moving up to the 135 lb. lightweight class where more lucrative fights await.

The 27-year-old Valero, a standout of Golden Boy Promotions, was at ringside when Pacquiao outclassed Barrera in their rematch Saturday. He later showed up at the post-fight press conference to openly challenge Pacquiao.

The US ban on Valero was a result of the Venezuelan failing an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) test performed on him in New York in 2004. Valero sustained head injuries during a motorcycle crash in 2001.

Aside from Golden Boy, Japanese promoter Akihiko Honda of Teiken Promotions also has a stake in the Tokyo-based Valero, who called Pacquiao a "cab driver" in retaliation for a comment made by the Filipino that all his (Valero) victims were mere tricycle drivers.

MOST VALUABLE
Ateneo standout Michael Jay Javelosa receives his Most Valuable Player trophy from former PBA MVP Allan Caidic (right) during the recent awards rite of the Milo-BEST Passarelle (12-14) tournament. The 12-year-old Jay is the grandson of former Ateneo Blue Eagle, Alfredo Javelosa, a teammate of the late King Eagle Moro Lorenzo at Ateneo. At left is BEST Center founder Nic Jorge. Ateneo wound up second to Xavier in the tournament confined to players 12 to 14 years old.

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Ayala Alabang nips BF golfers

DEFENDING CHAMPION AYALA ALABANG shook off the challenge of BF Resort to top the first round of the South qualifying of the 16th Intervillage Golf Tournament Series presented by MyPhone on Tuesday at the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club.

Alex Escalona fired 35 points under the Stableford format to top Group 3 (handicap 11-15) and key Ayala Alabang's one-point victory over BF Resort.

Drawing 33 and 32 points from RJ Escalona and Willy Roldan, respectively, Ayala Alabang totaled 313 points from its top eight players.

Other Ayala scorers were Joaquin Rosero 28, Leonardo Sarmiento Jr. 27, Ricky de Roca 26, Marc Reyes 24 and Lito Carvajal 22.

BF Resort totaled 312 points, 10 points better than Hillsborough.

Better Living-Don Bosco-Levitown placed fourth with 300, followed by BF Homes 293, Tahanan 286 and Pilar 285.

Scoring for BF Resort were Robert Reyes 32, Arnold Jumalon 32, Art Ampaya 31, Jojo Bondoc 28, Louie Bustamante 25, Ed Cabrera 25, Arnold Alafriz 24, Zardi Abellera 24 and Nicanor Sayoc 24.

Each team is allowed to field 12 players in the round.

MyPhone of Solid Group Inc. is sponsoring the annual series.

Lyceum targets title double

DUAL DEFENDING CHAMPION LYCEUM, Emilio Aguinaldo College and Rizal Technological U try to notch win No. 2 and sweep the senior basketball and volleyball titles in the 38th WNCAA tournament today at the St. Scholastica's College gym.

Lyceum barely won the Senior A basketball finals opener last Sunday over College of St. Benilde, 43-42, but had an easier time in volleyball against St. Francis of Assisi College, 30-28, 25-14, 25-16.

If the Lady Pirates prevail today, it will be their second straight cage title while the volleyball plum will be their eighth overall.

Lyceum also won the basketball and volleyball titles in the fourth WNCAA National Games held in Baguio City last year.

SPORTSWATCH

Biggest active chess tilt gets going in Tanauan City

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST ACTIVE CHESS Championship blasts off at 9:30 a.m. today at the Tanauan Gym in Tanauan City.

With a cash pot of P200,000 the three-day 3rd Tanauan Chess Open promises to be an exciting battle among the country's best chess minds.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre, IM Chito Garma, the champion of the event's first two editions, as well as GM-elect Darwin Laylo of Lipa City, GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio and GM Mark Paragua are among the favorites to bag the P100,000 top purse.

Tournament director Ricky Navalta said National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Butch" Pichay has been invited to open the tournament.

The event is supported by Pichay, First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities president Bong Belen Jr., Lima Hotel, Darasa Fiesta Resort, SM Lipa, Diwa Learning Manager Joel Mangaban, Quickpage Enterprises and KFC Tanauan.

PTAA golf cup slated

THE PHILIPPINE TRAVEL AGENCIES ASsociation (PTAA) will hold its 7th Annual Golf Cup Tournament on Oct. 15 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Co-presented by Philippine Airlines for the benefit of the Aeta community in Mt. Pinatubo, the event will have 150 of the country's top travel and tourism executives competing in the one-day System 36 shotgun format tournament.

At stake are four division championships in the men's category and another in the women's side.

A P100,000 betting prize from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and a round-trip ticket to the United States of America from PAL and Northwest Airlines await the golfer who fires the first ace.

Gin Kings Scoop guests

REIGNING PHILIPPINE CUP CHAMPION Barangay Ginebra talks about its bid to defend its Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) title in today's 11 a.m. session of the Scoop sa Kamayan in Padre Faura, Manila. The Kings will have for company in the weekly forum sponsored by Accel and Teletech recently crowned UAAP titlist La Salle Green Archers, Manila Little League president Robert Evangelista and project director Col. Levi Viesca, Manila Sports Council chair Nino dela Cruz and PSC-PSI head Malou Cantancio.

PCCA 4-cocker resumes

COMPETITION HEATS UP ANEW IN THE Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-cock derby series which resumes at 5 p.m. today at Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor.

The PCCA Stagfighter of the Year race leaders are expected to shine again in today's third leg, according to pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

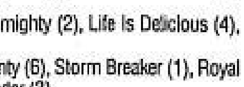
Osang dela Cruz with the entry Goldquest Champs topped the second leg last Sept. 21.

Pasig 5-stag derby today

SEVENTY-FIVE MATCHES ARE ON TAP IN today's 2-stag elimination of the Rizal Gamecock Breeders Association (RGBA) 5-stag derby circuit at Pasig Square Garden.

The RGBA Breeder of the Year and Stagfighter of the Year winners will be declared after Sunday's championship round, according to RGBA president Joey Sy.

Ramon Talavera, LJ Sumulong and Boy Torres shared the first-leg crown last Sept. 14 while Elmer Nepomuceno was solo champion of the second leg.



BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—Mountain Cat (3), Dr. Hannibal (1)
Race 2—(Tri)—Mr. Godfather (2), Wynn's Connection (3), Gold Ruler (4)
Race 3—(Tri)—Dazzling Cat (2), Good Riddance (3), Batang Eleven (1)
Race 4—(Tri)—Speed Almighty (2), Life Is Delicious (4), Tippietylertoo (1)
Race 5—(Bodman's Bounty (6), Storm Breaker (1), Royal Fiar (5), JupiterThunder (3)
Race 6—(Tri)—Landed Visa (4), Macho Man (3), Devil Rising (2)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Kirsten (5), Royal Lady Jane (4), Go Dodgers Go (2), Rapid Fire (1)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Refreshing (4), Miss Bobon (7), Bird In Hand (2), Miss Bobon (7), Ravishing Raffy (1)
Race 9—(Tri)—Kambro (4), Yanong Rikit (3), Mr. Lucas (5)
Race 10—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ima (1), Sir Barbaro (5), Golden Lass (3), Grand Game (40, Mr. Diego (2)
Race 11—(Sutter's Royal (2), Quick Play (6), Ilocos Pride (1), Passing Through
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Running Rebel (2), Lady Commander (5), On The Fairway (4), Flegancia (7), Lion's Pride (1)

Gymnast Ramirez quits SEAG team

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TWO MORE SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES GOLD MEDALS GO DOWN THE drain for Team Philippines.

This after the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines yesterday said it is ready to bite the bullet and disband its men's artistic team in the wake of the resignation of coach Sonny Ty and five athletes, led by 2005 SEA Games double gold-medal winner Roel Ramirez.

Ty, Ramirez and the four other gymnasts hauled their personal belongings out of their quarters at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in disgust yesterday after GAP failed to field an entire team in the Thailand SEAG this December.

"I didn't tell them to resign," said Ty of the athletes. "In fact, I told them to continue, but they have seen the problem with the (GAP) leadership."

Ty said the association failed to source out funds for an international exposure which could have given other team members the chance to make the SEAG squad.

Ramirez had earlier rued that he's the "only one competing in the SEA Games."

But GAP secretary general Dulce Saguisag said the whole issue started following Ramirez's failure to liquidate the cash given him when he competed in the World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, last month.

"Given that they don't have foreign exposure, is that reason enough to turn your back on your duty to represent the country?" said Saguisag in a hastily called press conference.

"As far as we are concerned, they're out (of the SEAG)," she added. "We are very sad because we'll have less medals in the SEA Games. But nobody is indispensable, and besides life doesn't end with the SEA Games."

The country is supposed to send just two men and two women—the only ones who passed the criteria set by the Task Force SEA Games. They are Ramirez and Frederick Rocas in men's artistic, Nikka Calapatan in rythmic and Saguisag's daughter Kaissa in women's artistic.

Saguisag said the composition of the SEAG lineup was the call of the Task Force—a joint body formed by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee.

In fact, she said the GAP endorsed 22 names to the Task Force but only the four, who are all medalists in the 2005 SEAG held here, were approved.

Ty lamented that Ramirez is a "shoo-in" for the gold in the horse vault and floor exercise events which he ruled two years ago.

RAMIREZ: Shoo-in for two Games golds.

PHILIPPINE TEAM
2007 ROK WORLD CUP

OFF TO WORLD CUP

Chef de Mission Johnny Tan (left) and San Miguel Motorsports director Boy Ochoa (right) flank members of the RP karting team vying in the 2007 ROK World Cup in Italy. They are (starting second from left) Mike Casimiro, Juha Turalba, Javi Benitez, Joey Orduna, Franco Reyes, Vencer John Suba and team captain Jean Stefano Marcelo. Ken Monzones, Paco Rodriguez and Jette Calderon are the other team members.

ASIAN 14-U SERIES

3 RP netters advance to semis

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TIM POLERO SAYS THAT HE'S AN all-around player.

He proved it well enough to beat fourth seed Malaysia's Jason Michael Lee, 6-2, 6-4, yesterday and tow two other Filipinos to the semifinals of the Agra Cup-Asian 14-U Series at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The plump and bubbly 14-year-old Tim, the other half of the sensational Polero twins seeing action here, was hardly threatened by the more seasoned Malaysian, using his powerful groundstrokes to finish off the visitor in less than an hour.

Tim's next foe is Leander Lazaro, who has already beaten him five times.

"*Hindi pa ako nanalo sa kanya (Lazaro), pero yayariin ko siya bukas* (I haven't won against him, but I will let him have it tomorrow)," he said.

But Kim Polero fell to top seed Ariez Elyaas Dean Hashsam, who posted a 6-3, 6-1 win that set up the Malaysian against local bet Bernadine Siso in the semifinals.

Siso will be coming into today's match fresh from an overwhelming 6-0, 6-0 victory over another Malaysian, Mohd Assri Merzuki.

Lazaro advanced after beating giant-killer Arjohn Dela Cruz, 7-5, 6-4.

Dela Cruz hurdled second seed Asshsaam Goghari of Malaysia in the second round, while Lazaro bundled out the only seeded Filipino, Kyle Cordero.

In girls' action, Jonicka Martina Guba toppled Malaysian top seed Adelle Chia Boey, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, to reach the semifinals where she will face third seed Filipina Shannine Mae Olivarez, an easy 6-1, 6-2 winner over Macy Gonzales.

Fourth seed Sally Mae Siso slipped past Victoria Louise Magaway, 6-3, 6-2, to set up a duel with second seed Theiviya Selvarajoo, who downed Cristabelle Paulino, 6-3, 6-2.

College aces collide in All-Star tiff

GAMES TOMORROW
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—Side events
4 p.m.—UAAP Stars vs. NCAA Stars

By Jasmine W. Payo

A SHOWDOWN INVOLVING the season's best unfolds tomorrow when UAAP and NCAA basketball standouts clash in the Bantay Bata All-Star Game at The Arena in San Juan.

Rico Maierhofer, JV Casio, TY Tang and JV Casio of newly crowned UAAP champion La Salle Green Archers will power the UAAP All-Stars, while Ogie Menor, Pong Escobal and Nigerian Sam Ekwe of back-to-back NCAA champion San Beda will lead the NCAA side.

The face-off between the country's top collegiate leagues starts at 4 p.m., right after the 2 p.m. side event that includes a slamdunk contest, a three-point competition and a two-ball shootout.

Also suiting up for the UAAP All-Stars are Mark Borboran and Marcy Arellano of runner-up University of the East, Ateneo big men Ford Arao and Nonoy Baclao, Santo Tomas guards Japs Cuan and Dylan Ababou, Far Eastern's Mac Baracael, National U's Edwin Asoro, Adamson's Roel Hugnatan and University of the Philippines rookie Mike Gamboa.

Franz Pumaren will call the shots, but the multititled La Salle coach will miss the services of UST star Jervy Cruz, this season's Most Valuable Player, and streak shooters Patrick Cabahug of Adamson and NU's Jonathan Fernandez. The three are training with the all-amateur Philippine team in South Korea.

San Beda coach Frankie Lim will mentor the NCAA crew bannered by MVP Kelvin Dela Peña of Mapua, Rafael Jazul, Bryan Faundo and Dino Daa of runner-up Letran, San Beda's Borgie Hermida and David Marcelo, Jose Rizal's James Sena and John Wilson and Perpetual's Michael Kong and San Sebastian's Jason Ballesteros.

Gabica rules BSCP 9-ball ranking tilt

GABICA

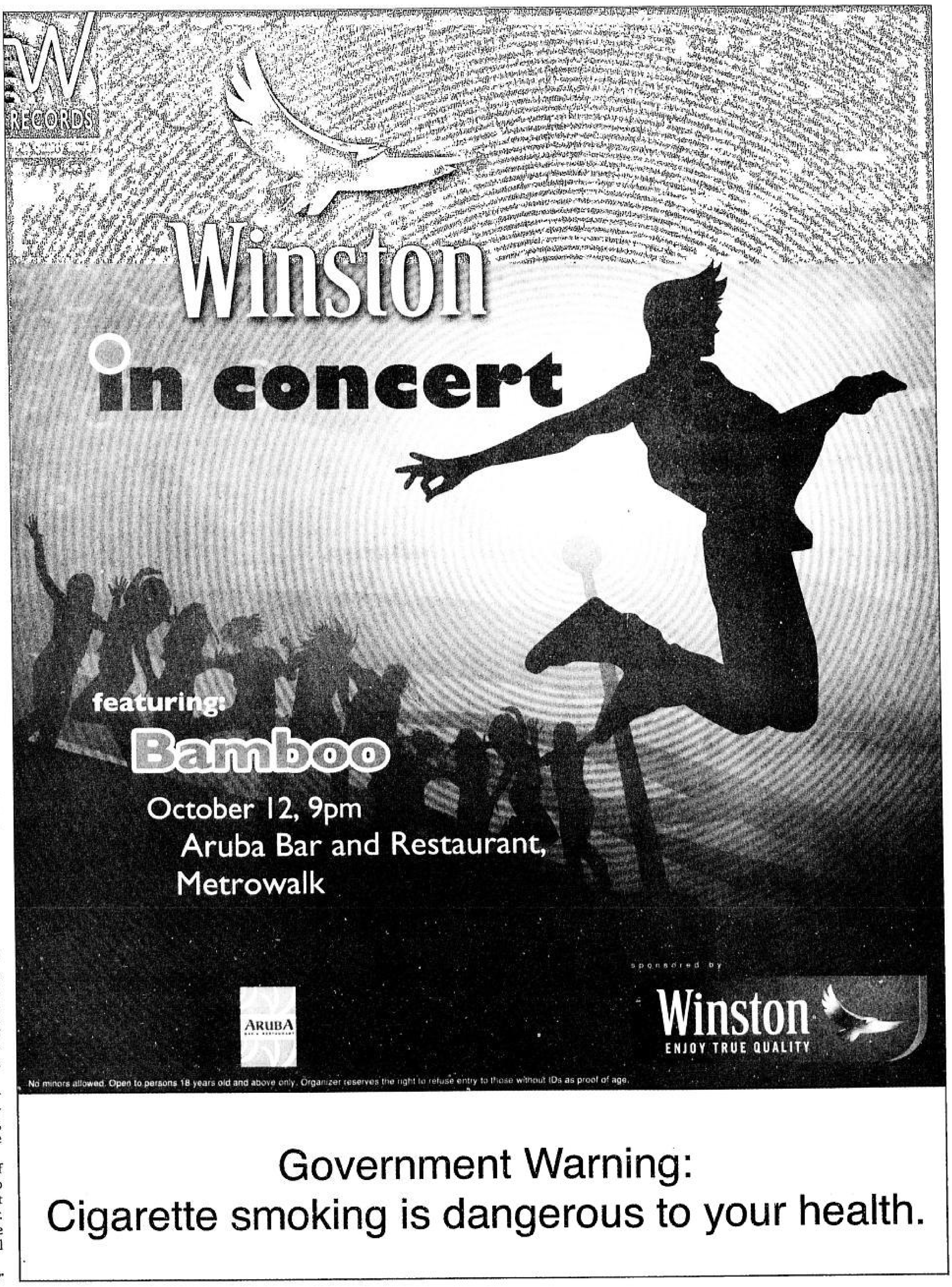
ANTONIO GABICA trounced Carlo Biado, 11-5, late Wednesday to rule the 1st San Miguel Corp.-BSCP 9-Ball Ranking Tournament at Bugsy Lair's on Sgt. Esguerra Street in Quezon City.

The 35-year-old Gabica, who beat Japan-based Roel Esquillo, 9-6, in the semifinal round, pocketed the top prize of P50,000 in the event that lured 87 players.

Gabica, gold medalist in the 9-ball event of last year's Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, also won the 4th annual SMB RP 9-Ball Open last month at the Silver City Mall in Ortigas Center.

"This is good practice for me before the qualifying event of the WPC (World Pool Championship)," said Gabica.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor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DIAMONDBACKS pitcher Brandon Webb shows his stuff during practice in Phoenix, Arizona, Wednesday. AP

Pitching key to AL series

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—BOSTON sluggers Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz are capable of providing fireworks, but expect pitching to be the key to the American League Championship Series between the Red Sox and the Cleveland Indians.

The Indians boast two of the top five starters in the AL in C.C. Sabbathia and Fausto Carmona, with each tying for second in the league with 19 wins.

Boston's Josh Beckett, who gets the start in game one of the best-of-seven series against Sabbathia at Fenway Park on Friday, was the only 20-game winner in the Major Leagues this season.

He tossed a shutout in game one of Boston's first-round sweep of the Angels and now has three shutouts in six career postseason starts.

That trails only Christy Mathewson's four for the career lead.

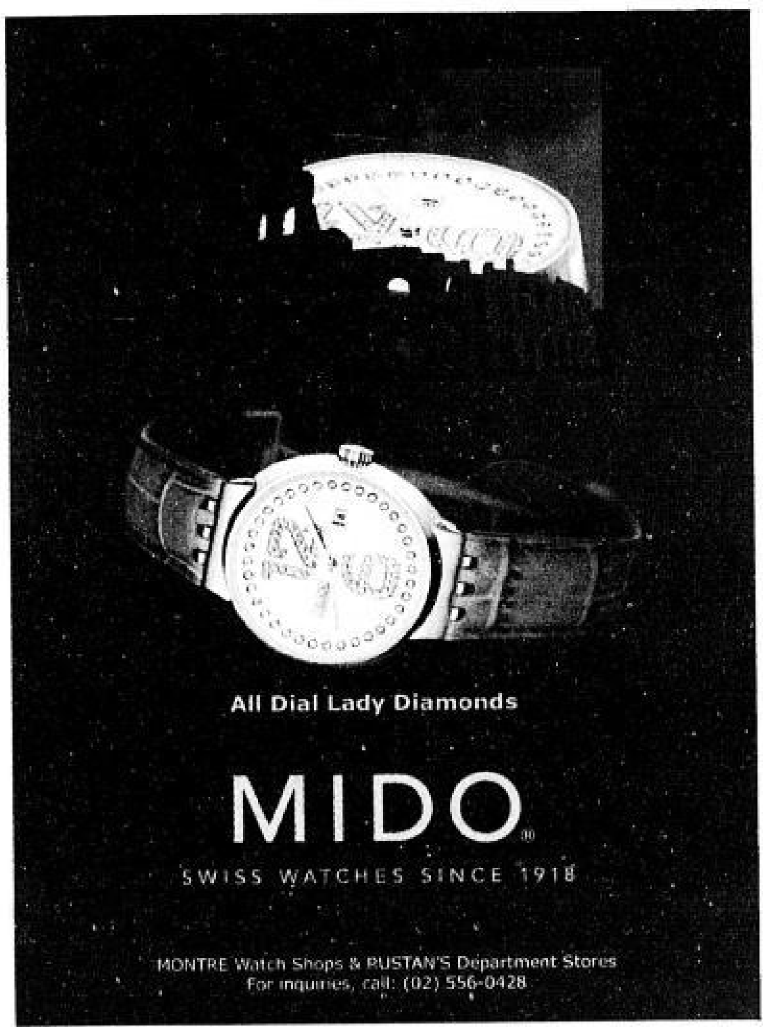
Beckett became the first pitcher since Don Larsen in 1956 to allow no runs, no extra-base hits and no walks in a postseason start.

The Red Sox rotation also boasts Curt Schilling, who owns the highest playoff winning percentage in history with a 9-2 career mark, and is third all-time in postseason ERA (1.93) among pitchers with 100 career innings.

The Red Sox this week rearranged their rotation, moving Schilling to start in the second game and pushing Japan's Daisuke Matsuzaka to game three.

Matsuzaka worked the second game of the division series, and Schilling pitched the third game.

For the Red Sox, who won 96 games in the regular season to post the best record in baseball, the biggest readjustment required by the Indians is likely to be merely the mental adjustment to the fact that they aren't the New York Yankees. *AFP*



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Celtics subdue Timberwolves

LONDON—IT MAY HAVE BEEN Kevin Garnett's former team, but it was team mate Ray Allen's stellar play that helped the Boston Celtics notch a pre-season win against the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday.

Allen sank three 3-pointers to go along with a game-high 28 points in a 92-81 victory in front of a sellout crowd at London's O2 arena, the last stop on the Celtics' European tour.

Garnett, a 10-time All-Star and the league's most valuable player in 2004, had only nine points and six rebounds on the night.

The 6-foot-11 power forward was traded to Boston this summer in a record 7-for-1 trade after spending 12 seasons with the Timberwolves.

"It's a new team over there, with new faces ... but when it comes to (Minnesota), I have no hard feelings," Garnett told reporters.

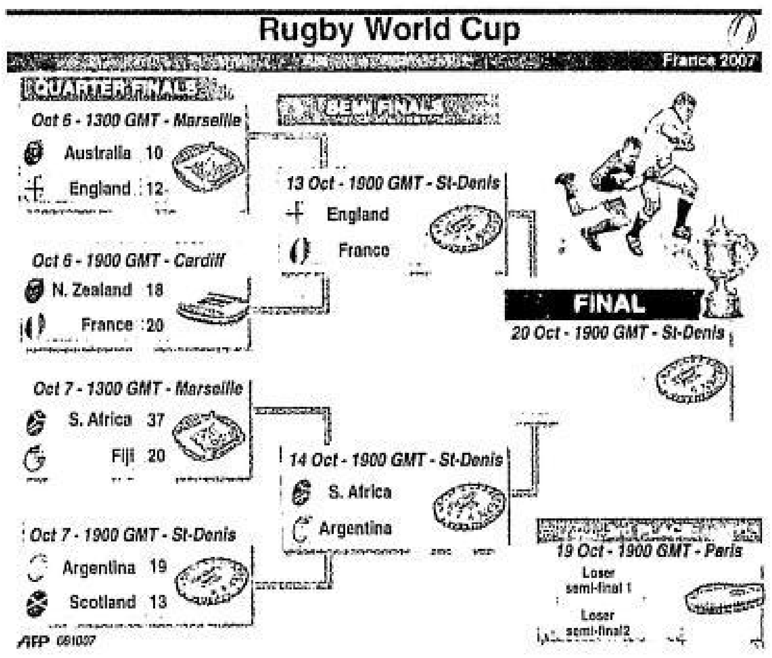
Minnesota's Ricky Davis led his team with 18 points, 16 of which were scored in the first quarter.

"It was definitely a different experience seeing Kev in green," Davis said of his former team mate.

"I almost threw him the ball, but then I saw him in that green jersey."

The NBA's 12-day Europe Live tour includes seven preseason games across six cities in four countries.

Minnesota won, 84-81, against Turkey's Efes Pilsen in Istanbul on Saturday while Boston beat the Toronto Raptors, 89-85, in Rome on the same night. *Reuters*


Rugby World Cup
France 2007
QUARTER-FINALS
Oct 6 - 1300 GMT - Marseille
Australia 10
England 12
Oct 6 - 1900 GMT - Cardiff
N. Zealand 18
France 20
Oct 7 - 1300 GMT - Marseille
S. Africa 37
Fiji 20
Oct 7 - 1900 GMT - St-Denis
Argentina 19
Scotland 13
SEMI-FINALS
13 Oct - 1900 GMT - St-Denis
England
France
14 Oct - 1900 GMT - St-Denis
S. Africa
Argentina
FINAL
20 Oct - 1900 GMT - St-Denis
19 Oct - 1900 GMT - Paris
Loser semi-final 1
Loser semi-final2
AFP 081007

England, France renew rivalry

PARIS—RARELY HAS THE TERM "Le Crunch," often used to describe internationals between England and France, been more appropriate than for Saturday's World Cup semifinal at the Stade de France. The old rivals will meet for the 90th time, at the Stade de France, knowing that defeat for either side could signal the end of some distinguished rugby careers, be it England full-back Jason Robinson, retiring after the World Cup, or France coach Bernard Laporte, who is set to become a junior sports minister. *AFP*

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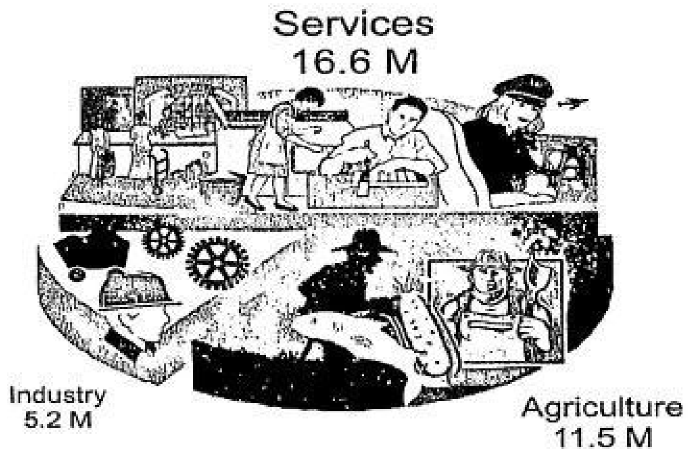
Peso inches closer to testing 43:$1 level

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Services sector biggest employer (Labor Force Survey)

Nearly one in every two Filipinos employed as of July 2007 was with the Services sector.



Source: National Statistics Office
Kate Pedroso Inquirer Research

Closes at 44.05 as BSP buying stems climb

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY EXTENDED ITS RALLY to close at 44.05 to the US dollar but was prevented from testing the crucial 44:$1 barrier by central bank intervention, traders said.

The local currency, which is now trading at seven-year highs, gained another 10 centavos from Wednesday's finish of 44.15 on a higher market volume of $607 million from the previous day's $403 million.

The peso opened nearer to the day's low of 44.25 but ended closer to the intra-day peak of 44.045 to the dollar at the spot foreign exchange market Philippine Dealing System.

Prospects of foreign funds flowing to local firms' public offerings and another interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve this month further boosted the peso, but sporadic buying of dollars by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas tempered the local currency's rise, traders said.

The local currency has now appreciated by P4.98 or 10 percent against the US dollar since the start of the year, making it the second best performer among emerging Asian currencies next to the Indian rupee.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves yesterday said the strengthening of the peso and the record-highs posted by the local stock market reflected the growing investor confidence in the Philippines and the increasing insulation of the economy from political noise.

Investor sentiment on the country has turned favorable in September despite an ongoing investigation on alleged irregularities and large-scale bribery behind the government's national broadband network project.

"We will continue to work hard to improve the country's economic fundamentals," Teves said, pledging to push ahead with key revenue-enhancing measures to sustain investor confidence.

As soon as Congress resumes session in November, Teves said the Department of Finance would submit a bill providing for the restructuring of income taxes, particularly for self-employed individuals and professionals.

"The improvement of the government's fiscal position in the last few years has been recognized by rating agencies, analysts and investors, but we need to keep our focus on continued improvement in revenue collection to achieve higher levels of economic growth," Teves said.

PESO/ B4

Finance eyes scrapping of $1-B bond float in '08

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE WILL study a proposal from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and local exporters to scrap its plan to raise $1 billion from the offshore bond market next year and instead get the equivalent from local borrowings.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told reporters that the national government received such a proposal to drop its foreign commercial borrowings "to stem the appreciation of the peso."

"We'll discuss it but we haven't talked yet with the Monetary Board," he said, noting that the government had yet to decide on the matter.

The Monetary Board is the BSP's policy-making body. It also screens all the borrowings of the public sector as well as those of private firms if the repayments will come from the local banking system.

Government sources said the BSP was wooing the national government to raise funds from the cash-rich domestic market for its $1-billion refinancing requirement next year instead of tapping the foreign bond market.

After borrowing the money from the local market, the proposal was for the national government to buy dollars from the BSP instead.

Since the start of the year, the BSP has been a heavy buyer of dollars from the spot foreign exchange market given the influx of dollars from overseas Filipinos' remittances as well as portfolio investments in the local stock market, which has been hitting record highs this year.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, chair of the Philippine Confederation of Exporters, said the government could help slow down the appreciation of the peso by announcing that it would no longer tap new foreign loans, as the proceeds would further contribute to the local currency's uptrend.

Instead, he said the government should use the heavy dollar inflows to prepay more foreign debt.

In a recent presentation to bankers, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the dramatic rise in foreign inflows to the country given the country's improved economic fundamentals has allowed a strong build-up in the country's international reserves to an all-time high of $30.7 billion as of end-September as well as the payment ahead of maturity of more $3 billion in debts since 2006.

"This has also resulted in an appreciation of the peso, which in turn has helped to temper inflation," Tetangco said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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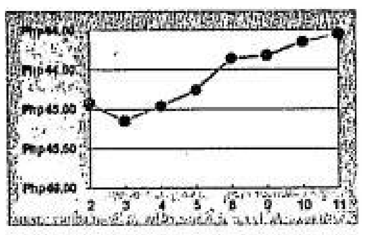


OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 44.05 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 11, 2007

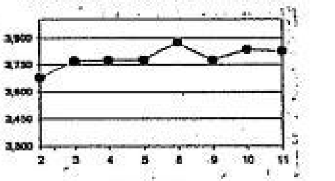
¥ 117.28 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 11, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down on profit-taking

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



OCTOBER

(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.3-PERcent lower yesterday on profit-taking, dealers said.

The composite index shed 10.51 points at 3,824.20, off the day's low of 3,786.66. A total of 2.4 billion shares worth P3.8 billion changed hands.

Gainers outnumbered losers 61 to 46, while 65 stocks were flat.

"Some investors consider the current price levels as good entry points as they anticipate the index to test recent highs as soon as next week," said Lawrence de Leon at Accord Capital Equities.

"There is more good news than bad news going around right now so overall sentiment remains positive. The market is also historically strong during the fourth quarter so we'll likely see more gains," he said.

The holiday-shortened week ended with the key index posting a 1.3-percent gain from last week. There will be no trading today due to a public holiday.

Gomer Tan at Regina Capital Development Corp. said the key index hovered around the 3,800-point level as investors continued to consolidate their positions after the recent rallies that brought the index to a record high on Monday.

"Any further run-ups in the absence of any consolidation could open up the market to even steeper declines later on," added PCCI Securities president Francisco Liboro.

He said confirmation of solid earnings growth and sustained economic expansion in the third quarter could fuel another major rally for the Philippine index past the 4,000-point level.

Most of the third-quarter earnings will come in between the last week of this month and the second week of November, while the GDP data for the third quarter will not be released until Nov. 29.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's biggest company by market value, was down P45 at P3,090.

Ayala Corp. finished P5 higher at P590, rebounding from a low of P570. Metrobank advanced P1 at P66.50.

San Miguel Corp.'s A-shares fell 50 centavos to P61. The food and beverage group's B-shares retreated 50 centavos to P62. *AFP*

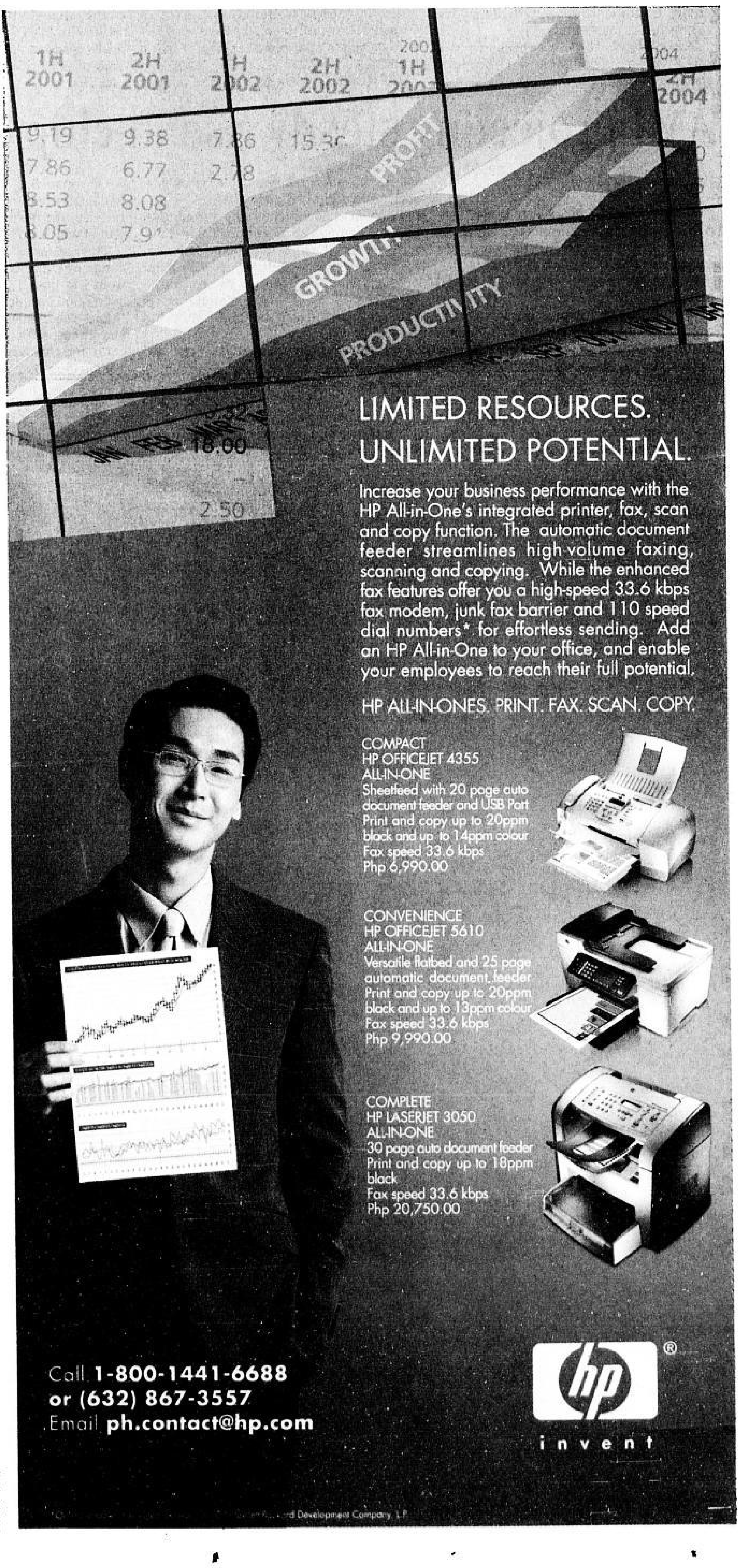
'Hot money' inflows surge to $3.4B

THE PHILIPPINES was able to lure back $38.2 million in net inflows of foreign "hot money" into local stocks and bonds in September, a turnaround from the $246.4 million in net outflows seen in August at the height of the global financial market volatility caused by the US credit crunch.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday reported that the return of foreign portfolio money in September brought total net inflows in the first nine months to $3.4 billion, which was 2.4 times better than the $1.4 billion in the same period last year.

"Factors which significantly influenced this development were the easing of inflation to 2.4 percent in August (from 2.6 percent in July), the cut in the US federal funds rate by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points and the P13.9 billion government budget surplus

HOT MONEY/ B4



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Lopez holding firm borrowing ₱12B to raise stake in Meralco

FPHC also seeks to increase exposure in First Gen, MNTC

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FIRST PHILIPPINE HOLDINGS CORP. (FPHC) of the Lopez Group is raising up to $270 million or about P12 billion in new debt to pursue its planned purchase of additional stakes in sister firm Manila Electric Co. FPHC is in the process of finalizing a dual tranche—or dollar and peso—floating rate note facility of at least $220 million or its peso equivalent, the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

BDO Capital will be the lead arranger of the facility.

FPHC president Elpidio Ibañez said during the firm's special stockholders' meeting that the amount of debt that banks would support could reach $270 million, while the minimum would be $220 million.

In a disclosure, FPHC said proceeds of the float would be used to complete the purchase of additional stakes in Meralco, composed of the 9.1-percent held by Spanish utility firm Union Fenosa Internacional S.A. through First Philippine Union Fenosa and the 6.6.-percent stake of Meralco Pension Fund.

FPHC has a 17.7-percent stake in Meralco. The additional stakes would raise its total holdings in Meralco to 33.4 percent.

FPHC is also interested in the government's 28-percent stake in Meralco, which is being considered for privatization.

"If we will vie for the government's 28 percent, we may tie up with partners because we do not need to get the whole thing," Ibañez said.

On top of the additional borrowings, FPHC is expecting to generate P5 billion within the first semester of 2008 from a planned preferred share offer.

Yesterday, FPHC gained regulatory approval to create P20 billion worth of preferred shares, consisting of 200 million shares at P100 apiece.

Ibañez said proceeds from the preferred shares issue would be used to refinance debts and to raise its interests in Meralco, Manila North Tollways Corp. and First Generation Corp.

Ibañez said FPHC was interested to participate in the operation and maintenance of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway possibly with MNTC French partner Egis and Tollways Management Corp., the operator of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX).

DA starts new fisheries funding program

By Amy R. Remo

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARTHUR C. Yap recently signed a resolution creating the P47.3-million Fisheries Financing Program, a new financing scheme for small fisherfolk.

The new credit scheme, provided under Resolution 31-02, will be implemented by the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Credit and Policy Council, with the support of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Land Bank of the Philippines and various private financing institutions.

The DA said the FFP would be initially funded with P47.3 million from the ACPC's Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program.

The FFP targets provinces with poor fisherfolk families, including Bulacan, Bataan, Sorsogon, Samar, Leyte and Zamboanga Sibugay.

The DA said the FFP was "aimed at generating more jobs and higher incomes for fishing households through an accessible and sustainable credit scheme."

"This is DA-ACPC's response to the fishery sector's huge credit requirement and the utter lack of financing facilities for the sector, particularly the poor and small fishers," said the DA.

The program will provide fisherfolk a complete range of interventions, including credit, institutional capacity building and technical and marketing support.

A credit fund will likewise be put up to be managed by LandBank and coursed through its conduits.

Splash IPO OKd

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange (PSE) has approved the application of personal care products manufacturer Splash Corp. to raise up to P2.5 billion via an initial public offering of up to 223.85 million shares.

The company said the shares to be offered accounted for 30 percent of the company's total issued and outstanding stocks after its listing on the first board of the PSE.

Splash's offer price will be between P8.70 and P11.18 each.

Out of the total public offer, 188.85 million shares will be new shares and 35 million shares will be existing shares to be offered by Splash Holdings Inc., a 100-percent owned investment company of Splash Group founders Rolando Hortaleza and wife Rosalinda Ang-Hortaleza.

Splash earlier secured SEC approval for its IPO.

Splash senior vice president Noel Manucom said the listing would be held in November.

"The IPO will fast-track the company's expansion of product lines as well as its planned brand acquisitions," he said.

SB Capital Investment Corp. and First Metro Investment Corp. have been tapped as the lead underwriters for the planned listing.

Established in 1985, Splash has grown from a P12,000 backyard business into a P4-billion enterprise that has presence in more than 20 countries in Asia, Middle East and North America. *Elizabeth S. Lacson*

AMI projecting steady rise in chip exports

By Daxim L. Lucas

AMI SEMICONDUCTORS PHILS. INC. EXpects a steady increase in its chips production and exports as demand for its products continues to rise.

In a press briefing, AMI president and managing director Dennis Ibarra said he was expecting the export receipts of the company's Laguna plant to hit $400 million by the end of the year.

This represents a 25-percent increase from the $320 million worth of products exported in 2006.

The company designs and manufactures "silicon solutions" and integrated mixed-signal semiconductor products, while providing "mixed-signal foundry services" and structured digital products.

Its main clients include the automotive, medical and industrial sectors. It manufactures exclusive chips for BMW for its onboard electronics, HP for its computer products and Raytheon for its cruise missiles. The company has a manufacturing and design facilities in the US, Belgium and the Philippines.

Ibarra said exports would likely rise further in 2008 to as much as $550 million, or an increase of 37.5 percent from the 2007 target.

The company recently completed a P1-billion expansion program for its manufacturing facility in Calamba, Laguna.

On top of this, Ibarra said the company had committed to further expand its facilities over the next two years, the aggregate cost of which would reach P3.5 billion.

This expansion would also help boost the company's line which has already grown from less than 1,000 products in 2006 to over 2,000 products this year.

Last year, Ibarra said the company sold an estimated 100 million integrated circuit chips and this was seen to increase to 175 million this year and to 250 million next year.

The company would also increase the floor area of its manufacturing facility to 220,000 square feet next year from 180,000 square feet.

NFA buying to peak in Nov.

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORity said it expects to buy the bulk of this year's palay produce only by November due to delays in planting caused by the prolonged dry spell.

NFA Administrator Jessup P. Navarro said the agency was targeting to buy 471,750 bags of palay this month, 812, 350 bags in November and 325, 850 bags in December.

"We're optimistic the NFA will be able to meet its target of procuring two million bags before the end of this year," Navarro said.

Navarro said NFA's palay procurement normally peaks in the fourth quarter.

He said the agency would aggressively buy palay next month to beef up its inventory.

Navarro said harvesting had already started in some parts of the country, particularly in Western Visayas, Central Mindanao, Cagayan Valley and the Bicol region.

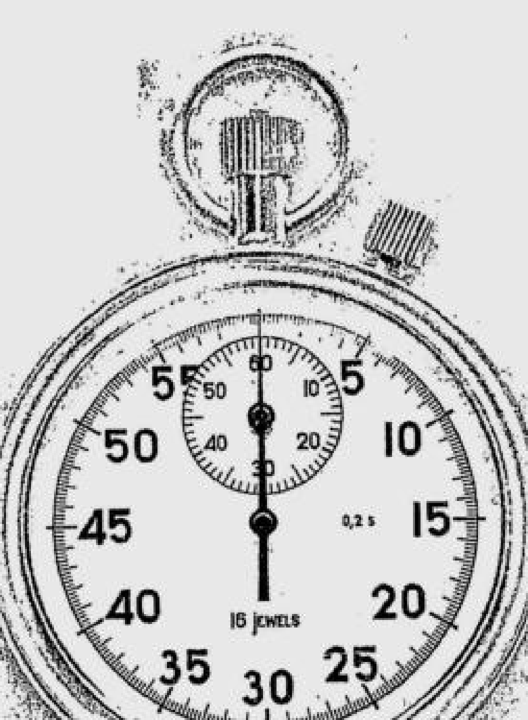
While still relatively small in quantity, he said palay harvests in these regions proved sufficient to boost the agency's daily average palay procurement from 50 bags a day last month to 1,506 bags.

Farm-gate prices for palay averaged at P12.18 per kilo as against NFA's support price of only P10, plus additional incentives of P0.50 a kilo for clean and dry palay.

Mobile procurement teams have been organized to augment the stationary buying stations in NFA's warehouses.

These teams serve farmers in remote and far-flung areas who find it hard to deliver their produce to the NFA.

The agency currently has 297 buying stations and mobile procurement teams nationwide. *Amy Remo*



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DA sets up white shrimp hatcheries

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS established four hatcheries to breed and produce the Pacific white shrimp to revive the once robust local shrimp industry.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said the fast-growing white shrimp, also known as Peneaus vannamei, would raise the earnings of the shrimp industry.

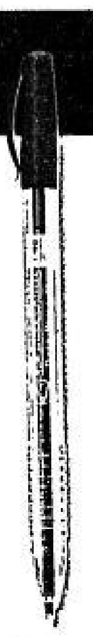
Production, Yap said, was projected to reach four metric tons a hectare in these new hatcheries.

Malcolm Sarmiento, Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, said the hatcheries were located in Bohol, Cebu, Iloilo and Pangasinan.

In the meantime, stakeholders in the shrimp sector are counting on the vannamei to revive the ailing industry and make shrimp more affordable for low-income Filipinos.

The Philippines used to be the world's third biggest shrimp producer. It slid to No. 19 after being overtaken by the likes of Mexico, Brazil, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Amy Remo



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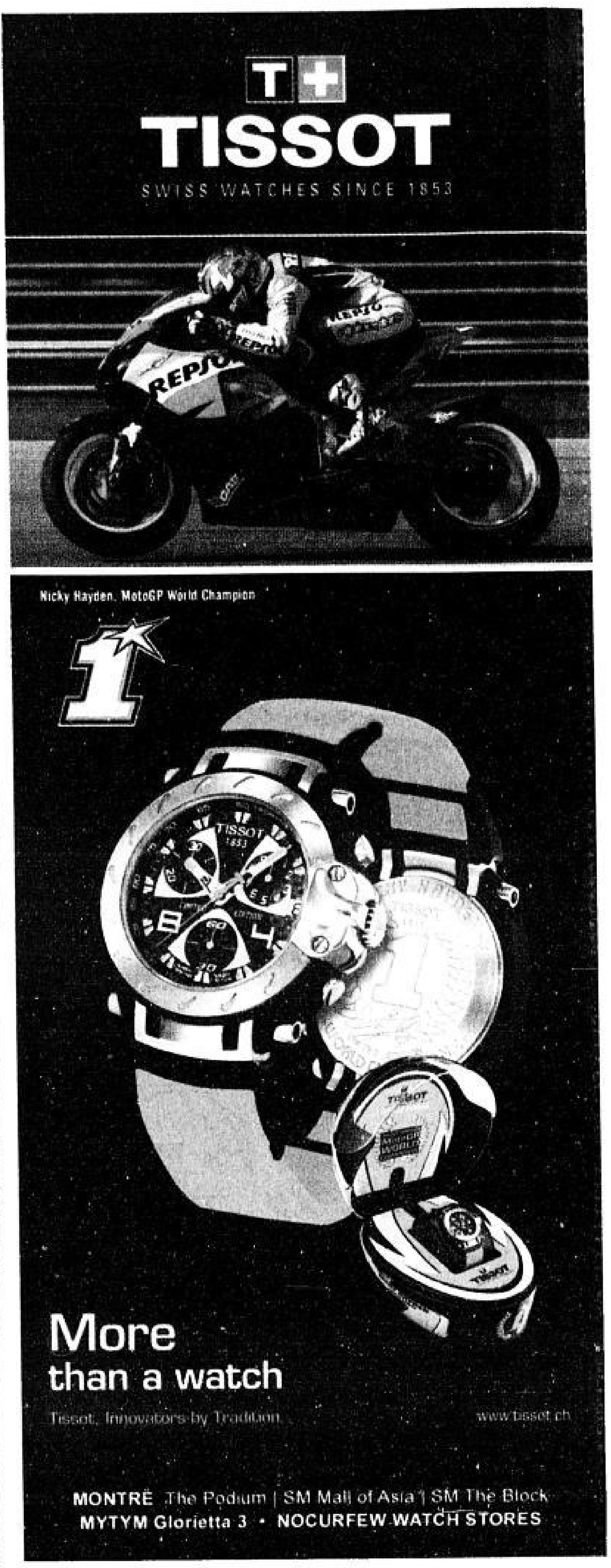

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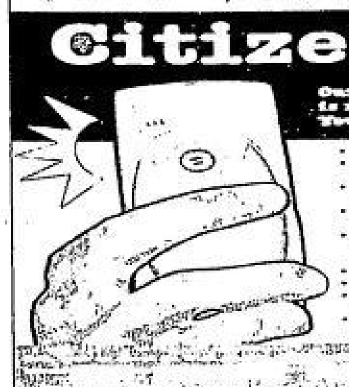

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Bond Fund - Peso	1.64137	1.64427
Managed Fund - Peso	1.94625	1.94004
Growth Fund - Peso	1.96745	1.93993
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.4175	1.4100

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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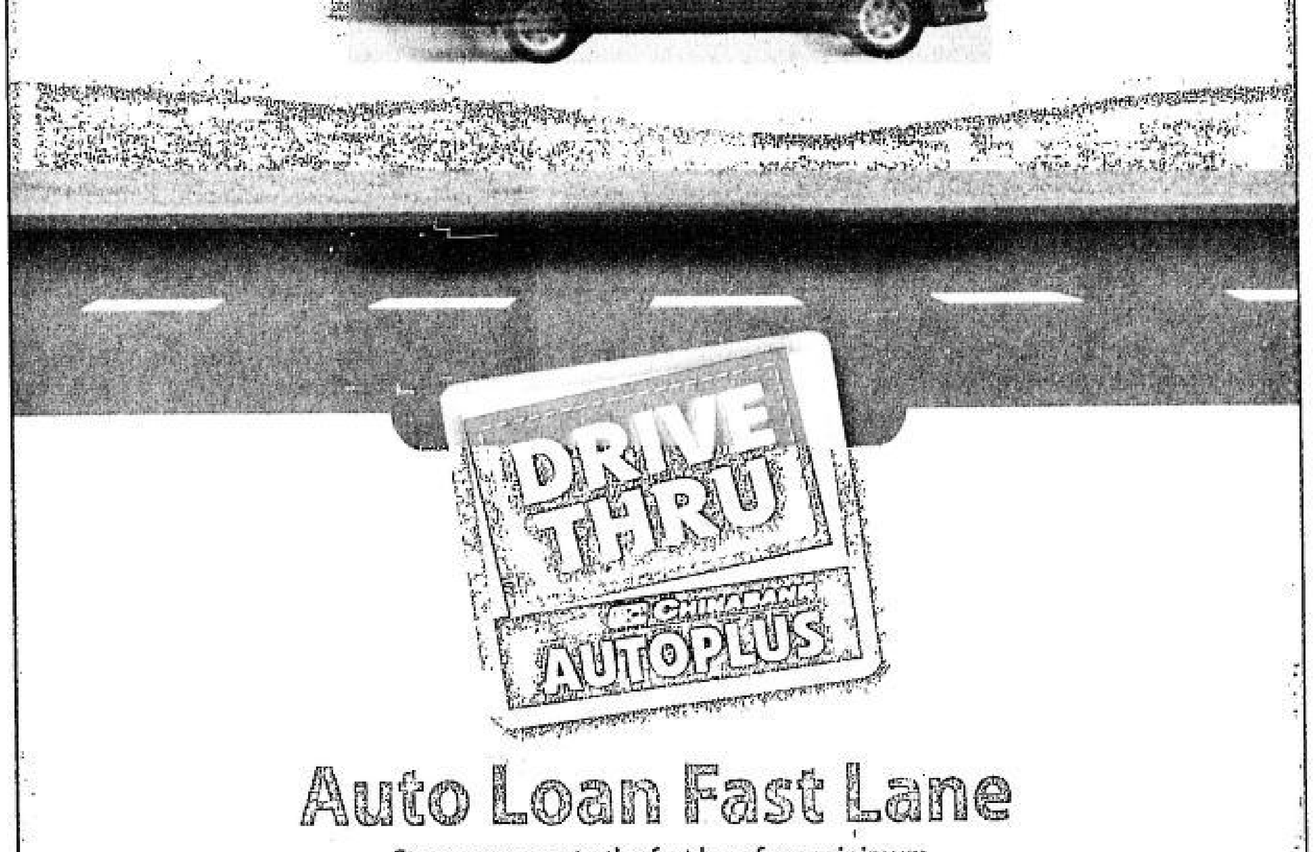
1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (Php 600,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Services of a Health Provider for the APE for PSALM Corporation. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Services of a Health Provider for the APE for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS only (PhP1,000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 22 October 2007 at 10:00 AM at the 6th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 05 November 2007, 10:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC), Bank guarantee (1 ½% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2 ½% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 05 November 2007 at 10:15 AM at the 6th floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
HELENA C. TOLENTINO
7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: (02)8405046 ; Fax: (02)8930699
e-mail: *hctolentino@psalm.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) HELENA C. TOLENTINO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI--Oct. 12, 2007)

DRIVETHRU AUTOPLUS DRIVETHRU AUTOPLUS DRIVETHRU AUTOPLUS DRIVETHRU AUTOPLUS DRIVETHRU AUTOPLUS
Beep-Beep, Beep-Beep, Yeah!



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Gaisano group acquires 7% stake in Basic Energy

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE GAISANO FAMILY HAS ACquired at least 7-percent equity in publicly listed Basic Energy Corp., formerly Basic Petroleum Corp.

In a disclosure, DSG Sons Group Inc. of the Gaisano group has subscribed to a total of P35 million worth of shares in Basic Energy, representing 140 million shares at 25 centavos, company compliance officer Angel Gahol said.

The Gaisano group has been a longtime partner of Basic Energy, Gahol said.

DSG (David S. Gaisano Jr.) Sons Group Inc. is the Gaisano family's flagship firm, which owns and operates big malls in Mindanao.

Basic Energy has applied with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for an increase in its capital stock to P2.5 billion from P500 million.

Of the increase, P500 million consisting of 2 billion shares at 25 centavos apiece have been subscribed by a number of individual investors as well investment houses and stock brokers such as Unicapital Inc. and PCCI Securities Brokers Corp.

Raising funds for power ventures

Unicapital and PCCI Securities each subscribed to 30 percent or P150 million worth of the increase in Basic Energy's authorized capital stock.

Gahol said the increase in capital would be used for the company's ethanol and geothermal projects.

Basic Energy is now in negotiations with the government on a 20-megawatt geothermal plant in Mabini, Batangas.

It also plans to put up an integrated ethanol plant project in Gutalac, Zamboanga del Norte, targeted for commercial production in the latter part of 2009.

The plant is estimated to produce ethanol at 200,000 liters a day.

Operation of the plant will position Basic Energy ahead of the mandated blending of at least 5-percent ethanol with motor vehicle gasoline by 2009.

Basic Energy also aims to raise P2 billion from an additional offering of shares early next year.

BDO Capital and Investment Corp. was tapped as the company's financial adviser for the offer, which will raise funds for various projects in the exploration and development of energy resources including geothermal energy, wind and other alternative and renewable energy as well as mining ventures.

Basic Energy has also been prequalified to bid for the government's stake in PNOC-Energy Development Corp.

Proof of identification

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

MOST GOVERNMENT OFFICES REquire applications, reports and other filings to be under oath or acknowledged before a notary public.

This requirement is aimed at ensuring the accuracy and truthfulness of the contents of those documents. A falsehood in a notarized document may give rise to criminal liability for the affiant or person who signed it.

As part of the notarization process, the affiant has to present proof of his identity to the notary public. The salient details of that document are stated in the notarial certification.

Up to 1990, the "cedula" or residence certificate was used as the standard proof of identification. This vestige of Spanish colonialism was replaced in 1991 by the Local Government Code with the community tax certificate (CTC).

The CTC is issued by cities and municipalities upon payment of the community tax by persons 18 years old or over who have been regularly employed for at least 30 days during any calendar year, or are engaged in business.

Considered a source of additional revenue, the CTC is available to interested parties, with hardly any questions asked, as long as the basic P5 tax is paid.

Passport

Section 163 of the Code requires the presentation of the CTC in, among others, the following acts: acknowledgment of a document before a notary public, taking the oath of office in a public office, and receipt of money from public funds.

The notary public or government official who participates in any of the actions mentioned is obliged to demand the presentation of the CTC.

In spite of this legal provision, however, there is a going trend to use passports as proof of identification in documents that are required to be under oath or acknowledged before a notary public.

This arrangement is understandable for transient foreigners and members of diplomatic and consular missions. They are exempt from the payment of the community tax because of the temporary nature of their stay in the country.

The "passport" approach in notarial certification seems to have caught up with a lot of Filipino businessmen who, except for occasional trips abroad, live year-round with their families in the Philippines.

There is really no problem about these business executives getting a CTC. It's usually available in the malls during the first two months of the year. Some local officials even make arrangements for their staff to go to the offices of private companies to issue the CTCs right at their premises.

But if the reason for using the passport is its "snob appeal," that's a different story.

Notarial rules

At first glance, the use of passports appears to be at odds with the requirement on the presentation of the CTC for notarized documents.

It does, but not quite.

The use of passports for notarial certification may be justified under the Rules on Notarial Practice (Administrative Matter No. 02-8-13) issued by the Supreme Court in 2004.

Nowhere in the rules does it state that the CTC should be presented by the affiant or required to be presented by the notary public before a document can be notarized.

If the affiant is a stranger to the notary public, the rules require him to identify the affiant through "competent evidence of identity," which is defined as "at least one current identification document issued by an official agency showing the photograph and signature of the individual."

If that document is not available, the identification may be done through another person known to the notary public and who personally knows the affiant.

Obviously, a passport meets the requirements on competent evidence of identity, and so does the voter's ID issued by the Comelec, the driver's license issued by the LTO, and membership cards of GSIS and SSS.

It's the CTC that falls short of the criteria laid down by the tribunal.

Conflict

The requirement that the CTC should be presented when a document is to be notarized was provided for by Congress in the exercise of its legislative authority.

It was meant to strengthen the ability of local government units to raise revenues through the imposition of the community tax.

At the same time, however, the Supreme Court has the power to promulgate the rules on notarial identification as part of its power and responsibility to regulate the practice of law in the Philippines.

The apparent conflict in the rules on notarial identification is more formal than substantial. It's the call of government office concerned on whether or not a notarized filing meets its requirements.

At the end of the day, what matters is the notary public has the opportunity to determine the identity of the person whose signature he is supposed to certify.

How the notary public arrives at that decision or what kind of proof he should demand is addressed to his sound discretion. After all, he will be held responsible if his certification turns out to be defective.

In my opinion, a notarial certification that uses a passport or any identification card issued by a government agency with the photo and signature of the affiant is more credible.

(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph)

Peso inches closer to testing 43:$1 level

From page B1

Credit watchdog Standard & Poor's said on Wednesday that an upgrade in the Philippine government's credit outlook to "positive" would hinge on whether new tax-boosting measures could soon be passed in Congress, including a long-delayed proposal to streamline fiscal incentives.

S&P currently rates Philippine sovereign debt at BB- or three notches below investment grade with a "stable" outlook. A "positive" outlook indicates a possibility of an upgrade in the actual rating in 12 to 24 months.

Teves vowed to push for the rationalization of the government's fiscal incentive system, currently characterized by 146 laws and provisions granting fiscal perks.

'Hot money'...

From page B1

in August," Tetangco said.

The US Fed lowered its benchmark rate last Sept. 18 to avert an economic recession that may be caused by rising delinquencies in the US subprime mortgage credit or housing loans given to borrowers with blemished credit history and little equity.

The reduction in interest rates made high-yielding assets in emerging markets like the Philippines more attractive to offshore investors.

But prior to the US Fed's rate cut, the country saw a net portfolio outflow in August for the first time this year.

The national government's report of a budget surplus for the third month in a row in August also boosted market sentiment.

Portfolio inflows, which mostly go to stocks listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Bureau of Treasury's fixed-rate treasury notes (FXTNs), are also referred to as "hot money" due to their volatile nature.

"Investors also reacted positively to the Asian Development Bank's upgrading of its growth forecast for the country," Tetangco said. Doris C. Dumlao

CURRENCIES

October 11, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.706714	1.000000	44.1730
Japan	Yen	0.006028	0.008530	0.3768
United Kingdom	Pound	1.443604	2.042700	90.2322
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091112	0.128924	5.6950
Switzerland	Franc	0.597593	0.845594	37.3524
Canada	Dollar	0.720842	1.019992	45.0561
Singapore	Dollar	0.482102	0.682175	30.1337
Australia	Dollar	0.635363	0.899038	39.7132
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.875667	2.654069	117.2382
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.189341	0.267917	11.8347
Brunei	Dollar	0.480464	0.679856	30.0313
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022493	0.031827	1.4059
UAE	Dirham	0.192476	0.272353	12.0306
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.415000	62.5048
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.001092	0.0482
China	Yuan**	0.094084	0.133129	5.8807
Denmark	Kroner	0.134229	0.189934	8.3900
India	Rupee	0.018061	0.025556	1.1289
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209583	0.296560	13.0999
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539517	0.763417	33.7224
Sweden	Kroner	0.109459	0.154885	6.8417
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021695	0.030698	1.3560

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 10, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 10, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 11, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	6,000
73	39.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	67	67	65.5	66.5	716,500
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70.5	72	70.5	71.5	2,061,500
748	508	China Banking Corp.	715	730	715	730	2,640
40	19	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Banking Corp.	40	40	40	40	1,100
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	100
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	2,150,000
75.5	44	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	64.5	66.5	64.5	66.5	2,480,800
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	56	56	55	56	63,800
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	1,000
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28.5	30	28	29.5	3,690,600
90	53	Security Bank Corp.	78.5	79	78.5	79	271,900
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	54	54	53	53.5	996,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.1	5.3	4.1	4.55	131,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.92	1.98	1.9	1.96	2,401,000
16.25	4.2	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13	13	12.5	12.75	554,100
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.95	1.12	0.95	1.1	2,970,000
1,885.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,850.00	1,860.00	1,850.00	1,855.00	1,200
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.7	1,371,000
3.1	1.06	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	190,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	910	1,005.00	905	1,005.00	61,690
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,330.00	2,340.00	2,330.00	2,340.00	360
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	31,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	7,330,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	250,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	68.5	68.5	68.5	68.5	110,800
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	84.5	86	84.5	85.5	460,500
17.25	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.75	17	16.5	16.75	4,255,400
105.45	20	Manila Electric Co.	84	84.5	83.5	83.5	1,173,500
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.1	7.1	6.9	7	18,005,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	7,385,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	99,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	30,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.32	83,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	37,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.08	2.08	2	2	569,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc	26	26	26	26	2,000
61	36.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	55	54	55	1,426,700
9.1	5.3	Pancake House Inc.	9	9	9	9	1,000
10.75	10	Phil. Tob. Flue Curing & Redry Corp.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	2,000
0.98	0.45	RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	600,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.55	2.55	74,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	61.5	61.5	61	61	57,200
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	62.5	62.5	62	62	113,700
0.66	0.25	Swift Foods Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	70,000
5.4	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.4	467,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	16	700,500
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	460,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.99	EEI Corp.	5	5	4.8	5	480,000
21.5	6	Federal Resources Investment Group Inc.	11	11.75	11	11.25	501,900
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.5	125,000
2	0.3	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.36	1.3	1.32	5,789,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.95	4.95	658,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1	1	1	1	20,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.14	Picop Resources Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.45	9,840,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.26	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	77,000
0.17	0.026	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	11,690,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.84	0.86	0.82	0.83	16,110,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.3	3,438,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.45	3.5	3.3	3.35	350,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	96,200,000
9.7	5.5	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	718,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	57,600,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	23,570,000
1.38	0.52	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	850,000
1.5	0.21	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	160,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.34	588,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	585	590	570	590	280,520
15.25	7.22	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	1,400
5.8	1.36	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.6	4.8	4.55	4.8	5,169,000
10.25	4.2	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.3	9.7	9.3	9.6	2,830,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	20,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp.-"A"	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	27,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.9	7	6.9	7	298,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.12	205,000
14.5	7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11	11.5	333,500
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	2.16	2.32	2.1	2.28	1,219,000
0.95	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.73	0.68	0.69	5,360,000
11.5	1.38	Minerales Industrias Corp.	8.2	8.4	8	8.1	4,235,000
0.28	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.23	0.235	0.22	0.22	172,150,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.75	0.77	350,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	1,050,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	46,000
452.5	237.84	SM Investments Corp.	405	410	405	407.5	117,610
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	7,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.48	0.51	0.47	0.49	86,910,000
1.06	0.6	Solid Group Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.7	0.77	480,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.46	164,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	1,500
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.42	2,020,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71	470,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	767,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.7	15,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.78	0.82	0.78	0.78	3,020,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	22,050,200
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.36	1.42	1.36	1.38	7,304,000
4.7	2.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.25	37,000
2.7	1.08	Cityland Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	45,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	2,780,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.84	0.79	0.83	55,130,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.31	30,680,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	26,642,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.9	1.8	1.84	39,267,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	200,000
1.12	0.25	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.67	0.7	0.66	0.67	20,130,000
4.4	1.75	Megaworld Corp.	4	4.05	3.95	4	44,806,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.6	5.3	4.6	5.2	2,665,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	770,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	500,000
23	12.75	Robinson Land Corp.	19.25	19.5	19	19.5	3,155,700
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.25	4.35	4.25	4.35	1,142,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	5,381,600
3.25	1.18	Shang Properties Inc.	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.55	70,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.69	0.75	0.69	0.72	3,340,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.31	19,010,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	6	6	5.8	6	3,756,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	31.5	32	26,100
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	8.9	9	8.9	8.9	283,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.54	1.58	1.54	1.56	383,000
1,705.00	1,070.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,630.00	1,670.00	1,630.00	1,665.00	33,580
3,285.00	2,155.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,105.00	3,105.00	3,070.00	3,090.00	170,880
8.1	4.6	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	8	8	7.8	8	1,518,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	11,110,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.8	1,399,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.048	0.048	51,400,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.86	1.86	80,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	23,370,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.42	1.34	1.42	775,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	59,500,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	3.4	3.55	3.25	3.35	11,071,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	60,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	40,000
40	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39	39.5	39	39.5	507,800
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	54,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	162,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	150,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	30,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.72	0.72	2,860,000
1.2	0.44	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.8	0.81	0.78	0.81	2,290,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	2,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	67,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp	5	5.1	4.95	5.1	348,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	62,500
30	10.5	Paxys Inc	10.75	11	10.75	10.75	1,278,300
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	271,900,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	630,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.25	15.25	14.75	15	2,938,500
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.5	14	12.5	13.25	221,400
10.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	9.5	10.5	8.7	9.8	11,108,000
3.1	0.53	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.55	28,724,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.35	11,900,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	8,180,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.028	46,200,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	19,200,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	21.75	21.75	21	21.25	1,017,900
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	95,000,000
8.5	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	8,263,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	38	38.5	38	38.5	73,000
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1.04	527,000
1.8	0.57	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	3,754,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	11,300,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	251,200,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	73,700,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	1,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.029	397,900,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	988.77 UP	4.34	20,853,490	651,760,145.00
Industrial	4,792.02 UP	12.42	61,176,200	559,208,980.00
Holding Firms	2,188.00 UP	11.45	495,094,030	568,522,395.00
Property	1,729.41 DOWN	10.01	292,663,500	922,044,350.00
Service	1,860.60 DOWN	16.65	169,031,160	706,364,405.00
Mining & Oil	7,661.19 DOWN	4.91	1,243,737,800	368,007,090.00
All Shares Index	2,393.32 DOWN	1.26		
PSEi	3,824.20 DOWN	10.51		
		GRAND TOTALS	2,282,556,180	3,775,907,365.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Malunggay's medicinal magic

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST WEEK'S COMMENTARY ON "The Miracle of Malunggay," elicited a very large response through email.

One was from Dr. Edwin Balbarino (09285054224), whom we wrote about last Dec. 1, 2006. Currently managing the Visayas State University, Isabel campus, Balbarino advocates the use of vetiver, the miracle grass. Now, he is doing the same thing for malunggay.

Balbarino makes an important point. Though malunggay (scientific name: Moringa oleifera) is nutritious, it should also be made more delicious, thus increasing its acceptability and commercial viability.

He writes: "Here in Leyte, malunggay juice is extracted and mixed with lemonsito juice to produce iced candies or cold drinks for children who normally do not like eating vegetables."

He intends to work with Rafael Espino (09282876644), director of the Department of Agriculture's high-value crops program on "malunggay production, processing and utilization research."

But the most common issue that came up in the deluge of email on malunggay was the one raised by Ruben Sanidad, who wrote: "I'll appreciate it if you can inform me of the health benefits of malunggay."

Health benefits

The chart on this page is an excellent graphic representation of malunggay's health benefits.

Also, according to Dr. Lydia Marero of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), "one hundred grams or 1 cup of cooked malunggay leaves contain 3.1 g protein, 0.6 g fiber, 96 mg calcium, 29 mg phosphorus, 1.7 mg iron, 2,820 mg ß-carotene, 0.07 mg thiamin, 0.14 mg riboflavin, 1.1 mg niacin, and 53 mg ascorbic acid or vitamin C."

Marero wrote in her article entitled "Malunggay Miracle Vegetable," that the malunggay leaves "are incomparable as a source of the sulfur-containing amino acids methionine and cystine, often the natural minerals humans lack."

"Due to its high vitamins A, C, and E, which are very potent antioxidants, malunggay is a very good quencher of unstable free radicals that can react with and damage molecules that cause aging," she added. "They also prevent the onset of various chronic diseases like arthritis, cancer, and heart and kidney diseases."

In addition to its antibitiotic and antifungal properties, there are many more health benefits from malunggay. On Sept. 14, the Inquirer's Amy Remo reported: "A recent study conducted by experts at the Bureau of Plants Industry states that the fruit of the malunggay helped immensely to increase the sperm count of men who ate it."

Breastfeeding women

Breast milk is the best milk for our children. No expensive milk formula comes close as a substitute.

Often, the problem of most women is how to increase breast milk during the breastfeeding months.

Malunggay leaves and pods can help the mother's health and pass on strength to the fetus or nursing child. One rounded soup (table) spoon of leaf powder will satisfy about 14% of the protein, 40% of the calcium, 23% of the iron and nearly all the vitamin A needs of a child aged one to three.

Six rounded spoonfuls of leaf powder will satisfy nearly all of a woman's daily iron and calcium needs during times of pregnancy and breast-feeding (source: http://malunggay-herbtea.multiply.com/).

National focal point

However, despite its health benefits, a project involving the malunggay plant reportedly failed to take off.

At the weekly MAP-Agribusiness and Countryside Development Foundation meeting held on Oct. 9, malunggay was not accepted at the desired level because of its taste. This is where Barbarino's point of making malunggay more palatable comes in.

To be successful, malunggay must be profitable. Taste is one of the key factors that should be addressed to ensure widespread use and profitability.

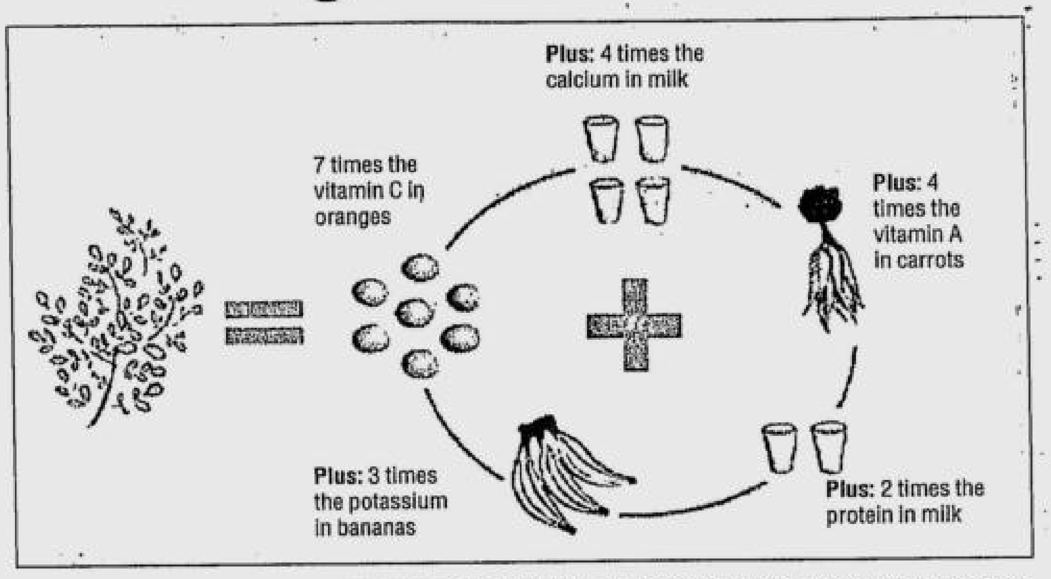
Other factors should likewise be identified and addressed by malunggay stakeholders to ensure that the health benefits of the plant reach the millions of Filipinos who need them.

Though there are many focal points for malunggay in different areas, it is recommended that the DA's Biotechnology Program: Malunggay Bionet Biocommerce under Director Alice Ilaga (09178439538) must take the lead in coordinating efforts to promote and sell malunggay products.

Details of the program are posted on its website—http://biotechforlife.com.ph/malunggay_biocommerce/.

Only with a unified synergistic strategy, properly coordinated, can malunggay achieve its great potential.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).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THE MIRACLE OF MORINGA LEAVES SOURCE: TREES FOR LIFE (HTTP://WWW.TREESFORLIFE.ORG)

Flying V shuns option to conduct maiden offer

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE OTHER OIL COMPANIES ARE mulling over plans to go public in the near term, independent oil firm Flying V is taking its time, relying on internally generated cash to finance its planned expansion.

Flying V chair and chief executive Ramon Villavicencio said it was "not timely at this point" for the company to conduct an initial public offering.

"If you go public, you are sensitive to many outside forces, which may not be reflective of the viability of the company," Villavicencio told reporters yesterday.

"We would like to expand using our own internally generated resources, if we feel we are already qualified and capable to do an IPO, we will do so."

He said that, apart from the company's internally generated cash, funding for Flying V's planned expansion activities could also come from investors that had expressed interest in partnering with the oil firm for some of its projects.

Right now, Villavicencio said the oil firm had no immediate plans to go public, and would concentrate instead on beefing up its operations.

Flying V is now in the process of constructing a 4.5-hectare depot in Sasa, Davao.

The close to P1-billion investment required for the project would be financed by internally generated cash.

"That will be the international receiving depot of Flying V, and the facilities will be all of international standard," Villavicencio said.

"It's in deep water, with an international pier," he added, describing the project.

The depot would be able to store up to 60 million liters of fuel.

Villavicencio said the depot would take 10 months to complete.

Construction already started last month.

Once the depot is complete, he said, it would cater to the storage needs of Flying V, Total (Philippines) Corp. and other independent oil firms.

"When the tanks are there, international docking will be one of our business activities," Villavicencio said.

"Mindanao is growing economically, with a lot of exports coming out of the region. A lot of vessels dock there, especially those in the business of bananas, iron ores and mining."

These could be the depot's other customers, he added.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that after obtaining regulatory approval, THE PRAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. has amended its corporate name and shall henceforth be known as the "MANULIFE CHINABANK LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION".

For inquiries, please call Ms. Joy Escobido at telephone number 884 5433 loc 5498 or e-mail us at admin@manulife-chinabank.com.ph. You may also write our Head Office at:

20/F, LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue
Makati City, Metro Manila 1226

Attention: Ms. Joy Escobido

Please be guided accordingly.

1 October 2007

MANULIFE CHINABANK LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION
(formerly THE PRAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and short-listed, to bid for the Conduct of Consumer Expectations Survey (CES) for the 1st Quarter (January - March) 2008, per BSP Terms of Reference.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is P2.7 Million.

The scope of the work includes, among others, the conduct of one (1) quarter survey which would cover all 17 regions in the country including ARMM, if possible. Each major area (NCR and outside NCR) shall have a sample size of about 2,500 households or a total of 5,000 samples nationwide. The Consultant's responsibilities shall include: a) survey design; b) conduct of survey (e.g., survey enumeration/data collection, field supervision, field editing, and call backs); and c) data encoding and processing as specified in the Terms of Reference.

The list of minimum eligibility requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective consultants shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Interested consultants must meet the following criteria:

1.0 The prospective consultants must have a minimum of two (2) years experience in the conduct of nationwide surveys.

2.0 The prospective consultants must have a minimum of five (5) computers that can be used for data encoding purposes.

3.0 The prospective consultants must have at least five (5) technical staff each with at least two (2) years experience in the conduct of surveys. The Permanent Survey Director /Manager to be assigned to this project must be at least a degree holder.

4.0 The prospective consultants must have a bank deposit of at least one million pesos

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Approach procedure through a weighted scoring system that simultaneously considers both the overall technical quality of the proposal and the financial bid (60-40). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

The complete schedule of activities for shortlisting is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	Starting 15 October 2007.
2. Pre-bid Conference	26 October 2007, 4:00 P.M.
3. Submission/Opening of Eligibility Requirements	9 November 2007, 10:30 A.M.

The list of eligibility requirements may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat upon submission of a *letter of intent* and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P500.00**.

Bid documents will be available only to short-listed bidders (top 5 shall be considered) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P1,350.00** to the BSP Cashier.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 12, 2007)

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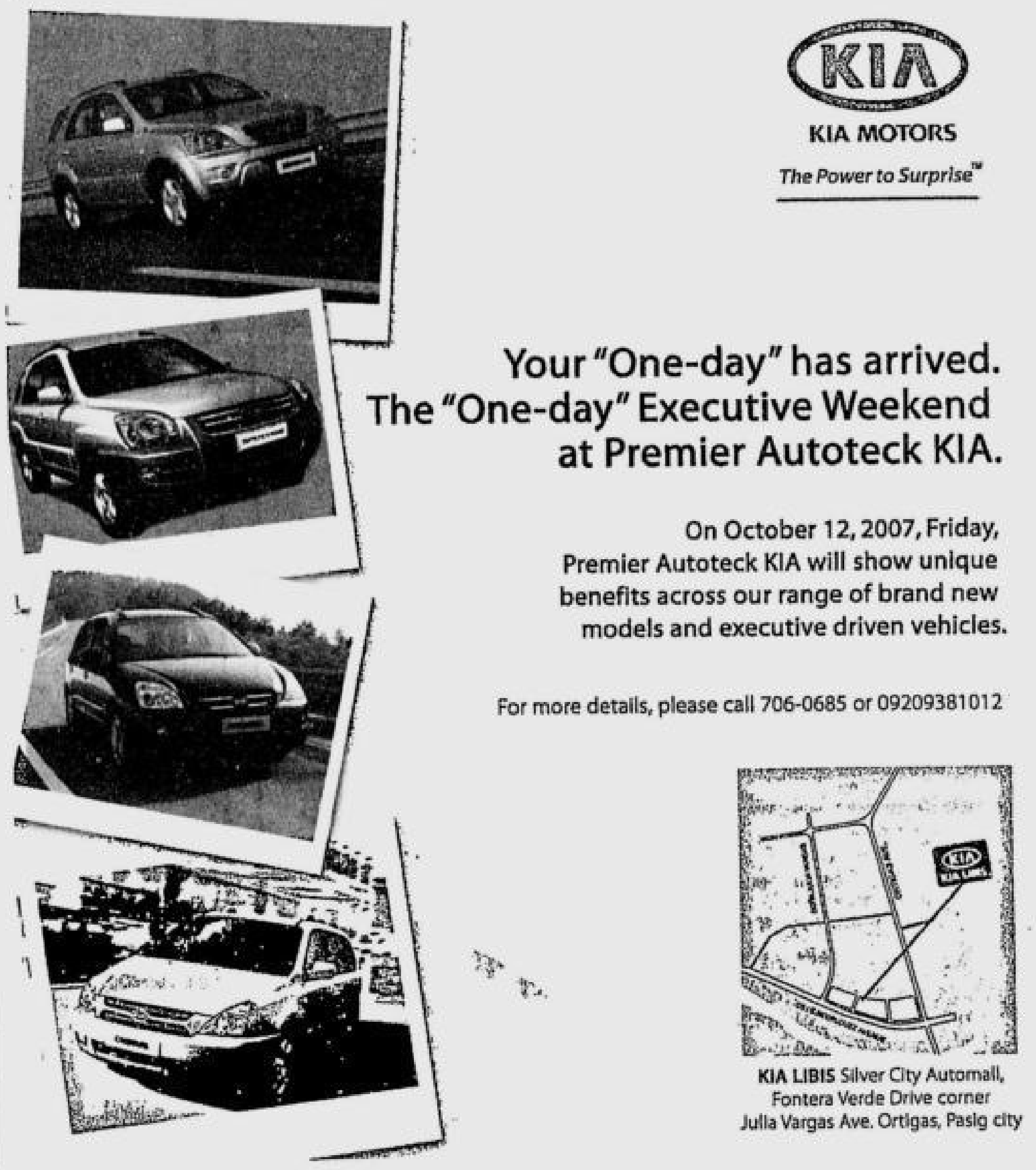
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Mobile Nos.: 0920-9242532 • 0919-8717873
Mail: info_exlink@yahoo.com / ex_link2001@yahoo.com

EVENT MANAGER & MARKETING PARTNER:

Republic of the Philippines
CEBU PORT AUTHORITY
CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Boulevard,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City
E-mail : cpa@cpa.mozcom.com
Telephone : 232-1461 to 63 • 231-6856 to 57
Fax No. : 231-6848

AN INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/ APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Cebu Port Authority, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City, invites accredited and duly registered contractors to participate in the public bidding of the following project:

NAME OF PROJECT : ***PROVISION OF RORO RAMP AND BACK-UP AREA @ PORT OF DANAO***

A. **Scope of Work:**
- a) Supply and Drive Test Pile (25 L.M.) 0.45 x 0.45 R.C. Pile / eq.
- b) Supply and Deliver 0.45 x 0.45 R.C. Pile / eq. (5,000psi @ 14 days)
- c) Driving of Vertical and Batter Piles (558 L.M.)
- d) Chipping / Cutting of Pile Butts to Cut-off Level, Disposal; including Demolition of Surface of Existing Wall for Rebar Exposion and Connection to New Structure
- e) Supply and Install Pre-cast Slab (3,500psi @ 28 days)
- f) Forms and Rebars for Beams, Curbs, Fenderwalls and Second Layer Slab (18,480kgs.)
- g) Concreting for Beams, Curbs, Fenderwalls and Second Layer Slab; including Stripping of Forms (V=84 cu.m.)
- h) Supply and Install Steel Fenders = 9 pcs.

B. **Classification:** Small B for Ports and Harbor

C. **Equipment Requirements:**

1 unit 35T Truck Mounted Crane	– Owned/Leased
2 units Engine-driven Welding Machine (200 Amp.)	– Owned
2 units Cutting Outfit	– Owned
1 unit Diesel Hammer (K = 35/eq.)	– Owned/Leased
1 unit Drop Hammer (2T cap.)	– Owned/Leased
1 unit Bar Cutter	– Owned
1 unit Crawler / Truck Crane (35T)	– Owned/Leased
2 units Concrete Vibrator	– Owned
1 unit Barge Mounted Crane (45T)	– Owned/Leased
1 unit Tug Boat (850 Hp)	– Owned/Leased
1 unit Feeder Crane (35T)	– Owned/Leased
1 unit Aircompressor (185cfm) with 2 jackhammers	– Owned
2 units Concrete Cutter	– Owned
1 unit 35T Crane	– Owned/Leased
1 unit Flat Truck (for hauling)	– Owned
1 unit Concrete Screeder	– Owned
1 unit Electric Bending Machine	– Owned
1 unit Boom Truck	– Owned

D. **Approved Budget for the Contract,(ABC) :** P7,193,180.11

Source of Funding : **CPA Corporate Fund**
Cost of Pre-qualification or Eligibility Statement : **P500.00**
Issuance of Pre-qualification or Eligibility Statement : **October 15-19, 2007**
Deadline for Submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification or Eligibility Statement : **October 26, 2007**

Prospective bidders shall submit to the BAC Chairman of this office their duly accomplished Pre-qualification or Eligibility Statements in **HARD/BOOK-BOUND** form. Pre-qualification or Eligibility Statements submitted other than **Hard/Book-Bound** form shall not be accepted.

Bid securities in the form of surety bond, Callable on Demand, can be secured from the GSIS or other private insurance & surety companies duly accredited by the office of the Insurance Commission.

Prospective bidders shall submit the necessary documents or evidence to prove ownership of equipment and the duly notarized lease contract indicating the brand, serial number, capacity, and present location of equipment being leased.

Prospective bidders are required to present the original copy of Contractor's License/ Certificate of Renewal and IAC Classification and Registration for verification/ authentication before Pre-qualification or Eligibility Statement shall be issued.

All particulars relative to pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184, and other rules and regulations as may be applicable.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/defect therein, and to accept such bid as may be deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MARIO G. TAN**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ANGELO C. VERDAN**
General Manager

(PDI–Oct. 12, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Swedish XQ's Philippines, Inc., is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as Export Producer of Oral Snus (Tobacco and Nicotine-Free) on a Non-Pioneer Status with capacity of 843,750 Canisters Per Year and with project/plant site located at 4th Street, Carmen Village, Talisay City, Cebu.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – October 12, 2007)

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Pag-IBIG Fund

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Pag-IBIG Fund, Cagayan de Oro Branch, through the Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing Board, intends to apply the sum of Two Million Two Hundred Sixteen Thousand Pesos (P2,216,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) on the Provision of Security Services for Year 2008. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The Pag-IBIG Fund now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Provision of Security Services for Year 2008. Delivery of the goods is required for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) in form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
4. The Pag-IBIG Fund, Cagayan de Oro Branch, will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 24, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.
5. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 6, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form indicated in the Terms of Reference.
6. Bid opening shall be on November 6, 2007 at 2:00 PM. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
7. The Pag-IBIG Fund, Cagayan de Oro Branch reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without hereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **FERMIN A. STA. TERESA, JR.**
BAC Chairman

Cagayan de Oro Branch
Pag-IBIG Fund Bldg., J.R. Borja St.,
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. #s 722800 / 726348 / 856-1861 / 856-1862
Fax # 726487

(PDI--Oct. 12, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
October 12, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	88 SPA & RESORTS, INC. Brgy. Bagong Kalsada, Calamba City	Mr. In Gyeong Yang/ Korean	Administrative Officer
2.	SECL PHILIPPINES, INC. CPIP, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City	Mr. Hyung Suep Kim/ Korean	President
3.	FORD MOTOR COMPANY PHILIPPINES, INC. Greenfield Automotive Park, Sta. Rosa City	Mr. Segundo I Baldovino/ American	Product Development Manager
4.	HITEC RCD PHILIPPINES, INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Youngbin Yoo/ Korean	Warehouse Manager
5.	DONG HAN PHILIPPINES, INC. Anabu 2, Imus, Cavite	Mr. Dongju Lim/ Korean	Cutting Manager
6.	MITSUBOSHI PHILIPPINES CORPORATION FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Mitsuhiro Okazaki/ Japanese	Production Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

(PDI–October 12, 2007)

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
PUN JAB LENDING LTD. COMPANY 39 J.P. Rizal St., Mearle Homes, Lamuan, Marikina City	Gulzar Singh Indian	Assistant Manager
PUN JAB LENDING LTD. COMPANY 39 J.P. Rizal St., Mearle Homes, Lamuan, Marikina City	Amrik Singh Sohal Indian	Manager
CHINA NICKEL MINING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Suite 212 State Condo. IV Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan City	Wenjun Song Chinese	Coordinator Staff
CHINA NICKEL MINING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Suite 212 State Condo. IV Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan City	Fu Huang Chinese	Coordinator Staff
IFAFA TECH, INC. 34/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino St., Makati City	Daniel Hendry Smith British	Consultant
TES PHILIPPINES INC. c/o Sumitomo Corp., EDSA MRT 3 Depot, North Ave. EDSA, Quezon City	Makoto Awakihara Japanese	Consultant
STEEL PENCIL PHILIPPINES LTD., INC. 2/F 388 Bldg., 79 Kamuning Rd., Quezon City	Russell Jay Neal New Zealand	Resident Manager
STEEL PENCIL PHILIPPINES LTD., INC. 2/F 388 Bldg., 79 Kamuning Rd., Quezon City	Linda Catherine Craw New Zealand	Branch Office
MANILA INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDERS, INC. Unit C, Oyster Plaza, Dr. A. Santos Ave. cor. Kabihasnan Rd., San Dionisio, Parañaque City	Yoshimasa Maruyama Japanese	Chairman of the Board
FEDERATION OF FILIPINO CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY INC. 6/F Federation Ctr., Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Shifang Zhang Chinese	Teacher
ST. GILES HOTEL (MANILA), INC. 9F Sage House, 110 V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Veera Baskaran Ramasamy Malaysian	Vice President-Project Development
RECYCLEMASTER TRADER INC. Km. 18 Sabrina Compound, West Service Rd., Parañaque City	Michiyo Kibe Japanese	Marketing Consultant
PREM & FRIENDS LENDING INVESTOR CO. 153 S. Rivera St., Sta. Quiteria, Baesa Rd., Baesa, Caloocan City	Gurpreet Indian	Marketing Manager
KMI_KJK INC. U-213 Mile Long Bldg., Amorsolo St., Makati City	Jong Soo Kim Korean	General Manager
KMI_KJK INC. U-213 Mile Long Bldg., Amorsolo St., Makati City	Jae Hyun Seo Korean	Senior Project Engineer
KMI_KJK INC. U-213 Mile Long Bldg., Amorsolo St., Makati City	Jaeheung Chung Korean	Civil Engineer
MANILA TARGET SHOOTING RANGE, INC. 8001 Financial Ctr., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Heetae Jung Korean	Chief Operating Officer
IPEKA-ENGLISH LEARNING CENTER INC. 9 Don Ramon St., Talayan, Quezon City	Seokho Yi Korean	Coordinator
PNI-KMPG INC. 34/F Raffles Corporate Cond., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Nathanial Richmond Kinsella American	Chief Executive Officer / Chairman of the Board
PAYMENT PROCESSING CORPORATION 6/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Quezon City	Soren Rabenstein German	Product Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC Regional Director

(PDI – October 12, 2007)

OBITUARIES

They are not dead who live in hearts they leave behind.
In those whom they have blessed, they live a life again,
And shall live through the years Eternal Life...
- High Robert Orr

On his 36th Death Anniversary and 100th Birth Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

FISCAL MARCOS VALENTIN, JR.

(September 21, 1907 - October 13, 1971)

of Cavite City and Ermita, Manila
Cavite National High School Class of 1926
UP College of Law Class of 1932

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at the following churches on Saturday, October 13, 2007:

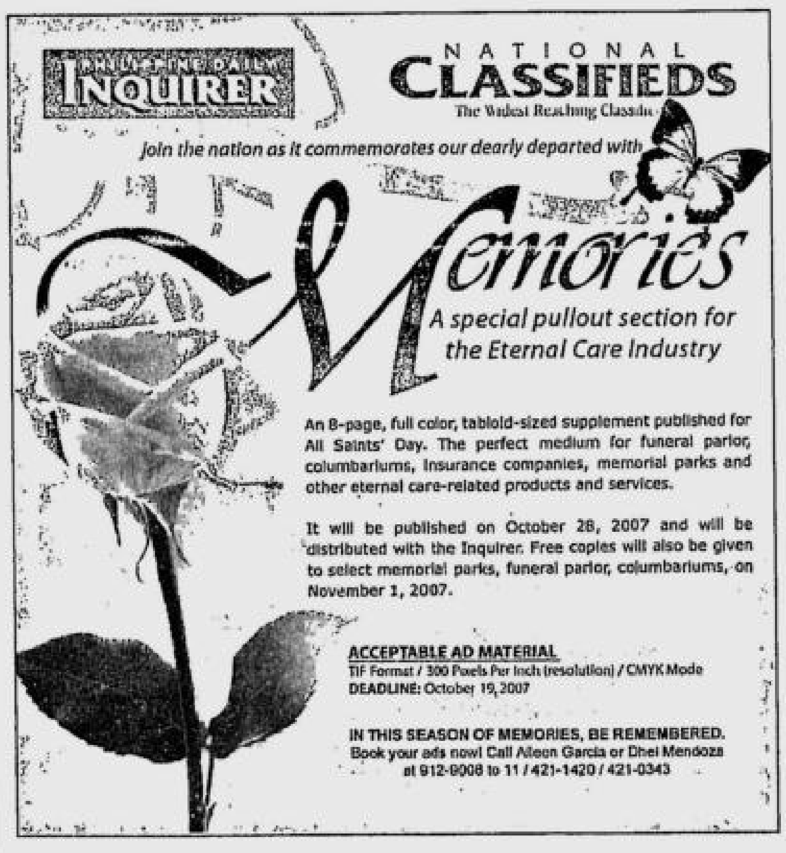
San Roque Parish Church, Cavite City	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Tagaytay City	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Hope Church, Pag-asa, Quezon City	6:30 AM
Sta. Cruz Church, Manila	8:00 AM
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish, Ermita, Manila	12:15 PM
Basilica Minore de Quiapo, Manila	12:15 PM
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, San Francisco, California	7:30 AM
St. John the Baptist Church, Milpitas, California	5:00 PM

His loving widow, **LUZ PEÑA VALENTIN**;

Children: **Luis**, **Rosa** (†) and **Ramon** (†) **Seva**, **Josefina** and **Artemio del Rosario**, **Gigi** and **Dale Doyle**, **Rodolfo** and **Lydia Sevilla**, and **Roberto**;

Grandchildren: **Mark** and **Amy Seva**, **Neeno** and **Martha Seva**, **Miriam**, and **Vikki** and **Doug Lucas**; **Luz** and **Boyette Rimban**, **Joart** and **Joel Fernandez**, **Rowena** and **Conrad Tan**, **Mark** and **Caroline del Rosario**; **Leni Doyle**, and **Edward Mark** and **Leslee Doyle**; **Nepheline** and **Joel Calix**, and **Mark** (†) and **Hazel Valentin**; great-grandchildren and other relatives

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of Ñol Angco.



Join the nation as it commemorates our dearly departed with Memories

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An 8-page, full color, tabloid-sized supplement published for All Saints' Day. The perfect medium for funeral parlor, columbariums, insurance companies, memorial parks and other eternal care-related products and services.

It will be published on October 28, 2007 and will be distributed with the Inquirer. Free copies will also be given to select memorial parks, funeral parlor, columbariums, on November 1, 2007.

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas .... Page **B5**

Francis B. Trillana, Jr.

Chairman, The Doughnut People Inc. (Go Nuts Donuts)
Chairman, Lowe Inc.

Loving husband, devoted father, doting grandfather,
loyal friend, generous soul, inspiring mentor, fearless entrepreneur,
passionate adman and avid horseman
passed away on October 10, 2007 at the age of 64.

He lived bravely and dealt fairly.

We, his wife Sonjie, children Mike & Kate, Tina & Cary,
grandchildren Celine & Chessie,
together with his siblings and in-laws
request the reader to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla de Francisco,
Santuario de San Antonio Parish,
Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The funeral mass will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2007,
9:30AM, Main Chapel of Santuario de San Antonio.
Cremation to follow at Manila Memorial Park.
Interment will be at Santuario de San Antonio Crypt.

Francis B. Trillana, Jr.

Chairman, Lowe Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 10, 2007.

He was 64 years old.

We, his family at Lowe, grieve the passing of the proud light that led us.
And yet we rejoice at the life he explored so freely;
we are grateful for the trails he left us to follow;
the stringent standards he always challenged us to uphold;
the kindness that would warm a weary heart;
the sense of humor that emboldened the spirit .
We pray with faith for his eternal peace.
And we shall remember him always.

BUSINESS

Debate rages as Jpepa stirs up a hornet's nest

Proponents declare it a boon, critics continue to slam it

By Amy R. Remo and Ronnel W. Domingo

AS THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Industry organized a Tokyo exhibit of products from small Philippine towns, various groups around the country have come out with guns blazing, claiming that the proposed Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement will only harm farmers in the countryside.

In separate statements, independent think tank Ibon Foundation Inc. and the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said small farmers are "unlikely to benefit from an agri export boost under Jpepa."

The real "gainers," according to KMP, will be "foreign transnational companies based in the Philippines and their domestic partners."

Ibon research head Sonny Africa pointed out that "food exports are actually only a small and diminishing share of total Philippine exports to Japan, accounting for just 7.4 percent of total exports from 2001 to 2006."

"While food exports potentially have high local content and significant linkages to the local economy, grassroots farmers are unlikely to benefit," said KMP chair Rafael Mariano.

The two groups explained that, due to backward production methods, "most local farms are not in a position to access the Japanese market, since their produce may not ... meet strict Japanese phytosanitary and other quality standards."

Mariano added that Philippine agriculture is grossly inequitable, with corporate agri-business cornering the benefits from production, at the expense of farmers and fisherfolk.

"Even in the case of any farms actually in a position to take advantage of the Japanese market, the gains will not really be going to the poorest peasants," Mariano said.

Africa also said that if the Senate would ratify the Jpepa, "it would be responsible for opening the country's agriculture resources to the exploitation by Japanese and other foreign corporations."

Already, the government is undertaking activities to drum up exports to Japan in anticipation of the implementation of the Jpepa.

Funded through the DTI's One-Town One-Product project, the one-country show in Tokyo was held from Aug. 29 to Sept. 5 at the exhibition hall of the Asean Japan Center in Tokyo's Ginza district.

Last week, trade officials said the Jpepa could ease the inflow of some P365 billion in additional investments and contribute an additional $720 million in export revenue.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3443 Series of 2007.

The Home Depot Group Opens Home Interior Superstore

Innovative retail concept offers one-stop solution for home interior furnishings

After its successful launch of Manila Bay Home Depot, the Home Depot Group launches another innovative retail concept. The Home Interior Superstore is a store-in-store and one stop shop furniture haven owned and operated by Manila's fastest growing chain of home centers. The first two Home Interior Superstores are located at the mezzanine floors of Ortigas Home Depot along Julia Vargas Avenue and Manila Bay Home Depot along Macapagal Boulevard.

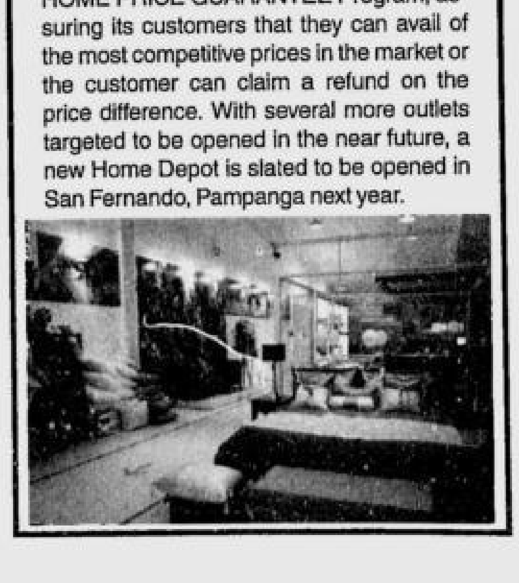
The Home Interior Superstore houses a wide variety of furniture designs and themes to suit every lifestyle. Aside from ready made furniture for sale off-the-floor, made to order furniture is also available for the most discerning customers. A plethora of home décor and accessories offers furniture buyers matching pieces to complement their furniture showcase. The sprawling furniture center is targeting home owners who are currently building their homes or doing renovation projects.

In Ortigas Home Depot, other specialty furniture shops are also located on its mezzanine floor. Among them are Blims Fine Furniture, Contempo Designs, INDEX Furniture, Interior Design Options (IDO) and Victoria Mondiale. Ortigas Home Depot has become one of the largest furniture retail hubs in Metro Manila. With a wide range of styles and themes, the combined retail floor area is in excess of 5,000 square meters, making it one of the largest furniture hubs in the Metro.

Manila Bay Home Depot, the fourth installment of the Home Depot Group's growing chain of home center has its Home Interior Superstore similarly located at the mezzanine floor. Two escalators lead customers to a wide array of modern, classic and contemporary furniture and home décor. With Macapagal Boulevard now the hub of several mushrooming retail and commercial developments, the area has become a magnet of commerce for large and medium sized developers in the once tranquil reclamation area.

The Home Interior Superstore is just one of several retail concepts introduced to the home owners and builders market. Also recently introduced was its Loyalty Card Program for frequent buyers. Now, customers can accumulate points for rewards in all its outlets in Alabang-Westgate, Baliuag, Manila Bay and Ortigas Town Center just by dropping by its Customer Sales Service counter and apply for a loyalty card. The loyalty card is available to individuals or business (corporate/institutional) members. Unlike other loyalty or frequent shopper's cards, the points are accumulated all throughout the lifetime of the card and it does not reset back to zero every time there is a redemption of loyalty rewards and prizes.

Another innovative program is the HOME PRICE GUARANTEE Program, assuring its customers that they can avail of the most competitive prices in the market or the customer can claim a refund on the price difference. With several more outlets targeted to be opened in the near future, a new Home Depot is slated to be opened in San Fernando, Pampanga next year.



Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

Website: www.inquirer.net/business
BUSINESS *Friday*

Virtual lifestyle club, anyone?

Members will get access to high-end brands and special rates for services

RICKY Gutierrez (right, foreground) with his partners in TREi.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE GROUP BEHIND THE SUCCESSFUL Chateau Group is launching a new venture—a virtual lifestyle club.

The concept is totally new in, and even outside, the Philippines.

"Clubs are usually built out of physical sites and offered based on its facilities," says Ricky Gutierrez, mover of the restaurants Chateau 1771, Sentro and Portico and the Hotel PonteFino in Batangas.

Gutierrez says the virtual lifestyle club concept entails offering access to places and discounts on products one usually cannot have unless he's a member of these establishments.

"Brands are always looking for new markets. And markets are always looking for good values, so we married the two," he says.

The results is TREi, or Total Recreational Experience Inc., a lifestyle club that is aimed at providing its members access to high-end brands and preferential rates on hotels and resorts, airlines, restaurants, business centers, healthcare, car rentals and shopping.

Although the initial plan was to have no physical place for its members, Gutierrez says they already set up a TREi club inside Hotel PonteFino to cater to some members' needs. Plans are also afoot to build one in Metro Manila.

Venue for brands

The rationale for the club is to provide brands a venue to increase their markets without spending on marketing. What they save on marketing they pass on to TREi members as discounts or special rates. In return, TREi markets the brands as part of the club's offerings.

Gutierrez says members will be given the opportunity to avail of exclusive services or facilities that they cannot yet afford such as playing in golf courses they are not members of or driving a BMW or working in a business center.

He says they are targeting young and upwardly mobile individuals as well as startup businesses for members. The target is to have 10,000 members in three years.

Membership fees are P100,000 for individuals, P180,000 for family membership and P270,000 for corporate membership. Monthly membership dues range from P1,000 for individual members to P3,000 for corporate members.

No-resale policy

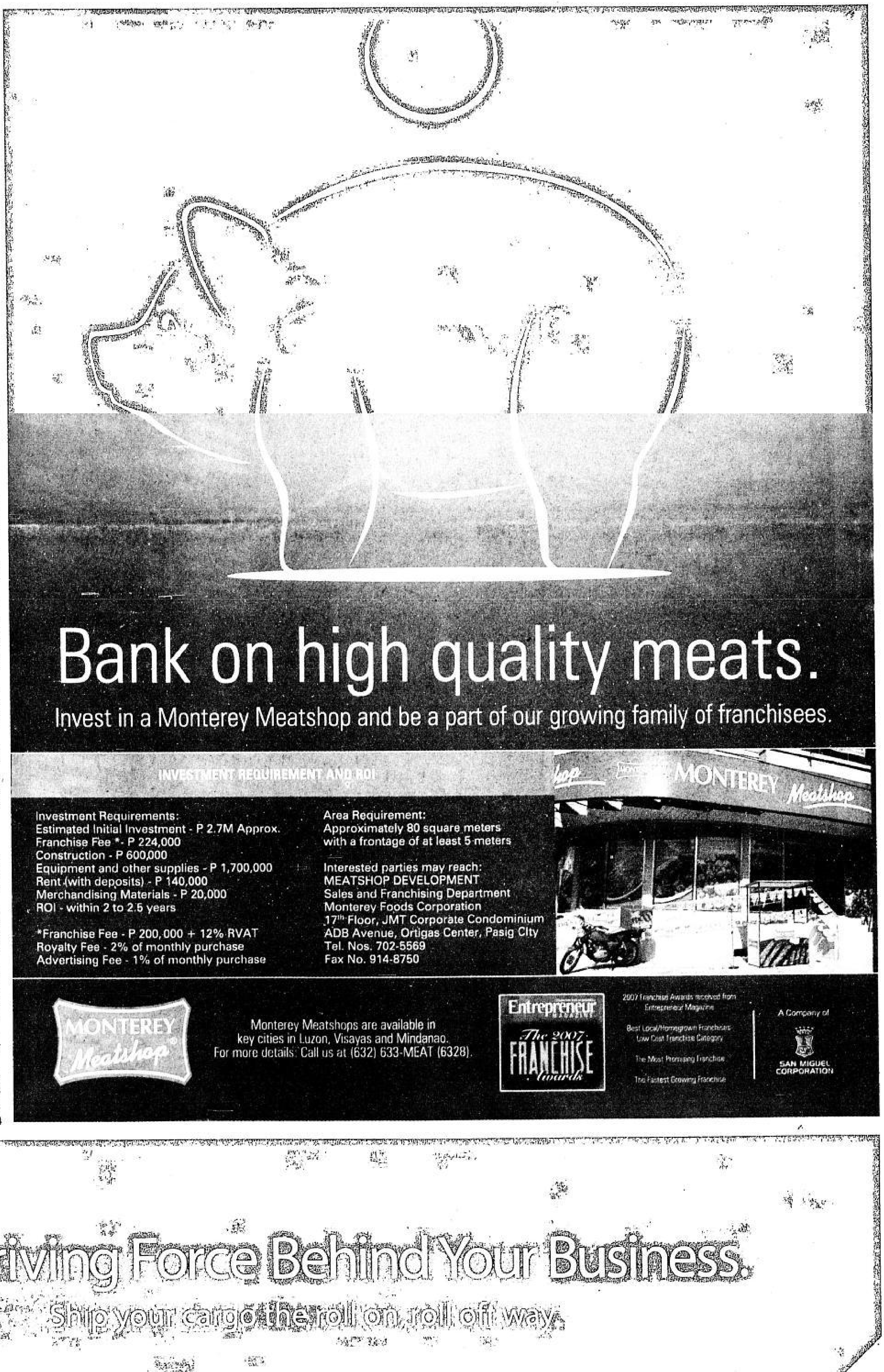
Unlike traditional club shares however, which can be resold, TREi has a no-resale policy which means one cannot unload his club membership.

And unlike other clubs, the share price of which can go up or down, TREi members simply hold on to their shares. The holding period for members is 25 years.

The reason for this, according to Pam Davila-Pascual, TREi's chief operating officer, is the intent of the club for the members to use and take advantage of the privileges and the benefits that go with it and not buy it as an investment the way clubs are traditionally structured.

They are particularly proud about the club's concierge service which already has links abroad. Under this service, for instance,

VIRTUAL/ B2-4



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Investment Requirements:
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Franchise Fee *- P 224,000
Construction - P 600,000
Equipment and other supplies - P 1,700,000
Rent (with deposits) - P 140,000
Merchandising Materials - P 20,000
ROI - within 2 to 2.5 years

*Franchise Fee - P 200,000 + 12% RVAT
Royalty Fee - 2% of monthly purchase
Advertising Fee - 1% of monthly purchase

Area Requirement:
Approximately 80 square meters
with a frontage of at least 5 meters

Interested parties may reach:
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Sales and Franchising Department
Monterey Foods Corporation
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ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
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6 P's of the Marketing Man

By Willy Arcilla
Contributor

PHILIP KOTLER, RENOWNED AS the Father of Modern Marketing, introduced the concept of the Marketing Mix, composed of the legendary 4 P's, namely Product, Price, Promotions and Place.

Over the years and around the globe, this model has become a staple among practitioners as it provided a framework for formulating marketing plans that was universally applicable across products and services in a wide spectrum of industries.

In recent years, two other P's have surfaced as part of a Marketing Manager's winning bundle. These are Packaging and Publicity.

Packaging has risen to prominence as marketers realized the value it provided beyond its functional utility. Indeed, packaging can be argued to be the most important form of advertising because it is what consumers see on the shelf, pick up and read. It is what they touch and feel. It is what consumers compare versus competitive offerings; what she brings home; stores and disposes or recycles.

Publicity on the other hand, has also grown in significance as consumers became increasingly skeptical of traditional advertising formats which tended to overpromise on benefits, but underdeliver on performance.

As a consequence, public relations campaigns consisting of press conferences, press releases, advertorials or infomercials have been mounted to lend stronger credibility to the claims of marketers and advertisers.

Now that we have the 6 P's of the Marketing Mix, I would now venture a different set of P's. These are what I would call the 6 P's of the Marketing Man.

The first is Professionalism. A Marketing Man must be a Specialist, an Expert and an Authority in whatever he or she markets and sells. At the same time, he or she must be ethical.

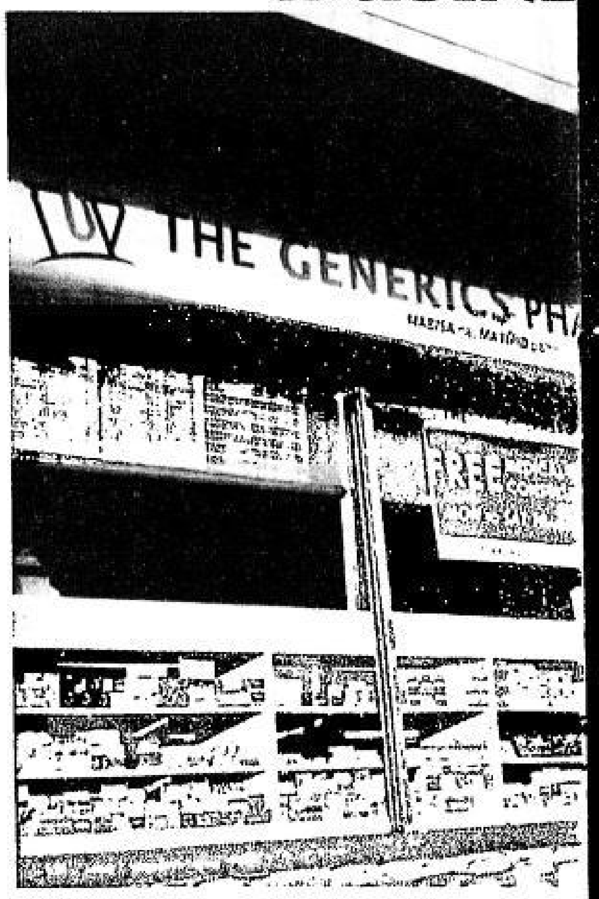
The second is Passion. Nothing great was ever achieved without energy and enthusiasm. A Marketing Man must have passion not only in his brand, but indeed, in his profession.

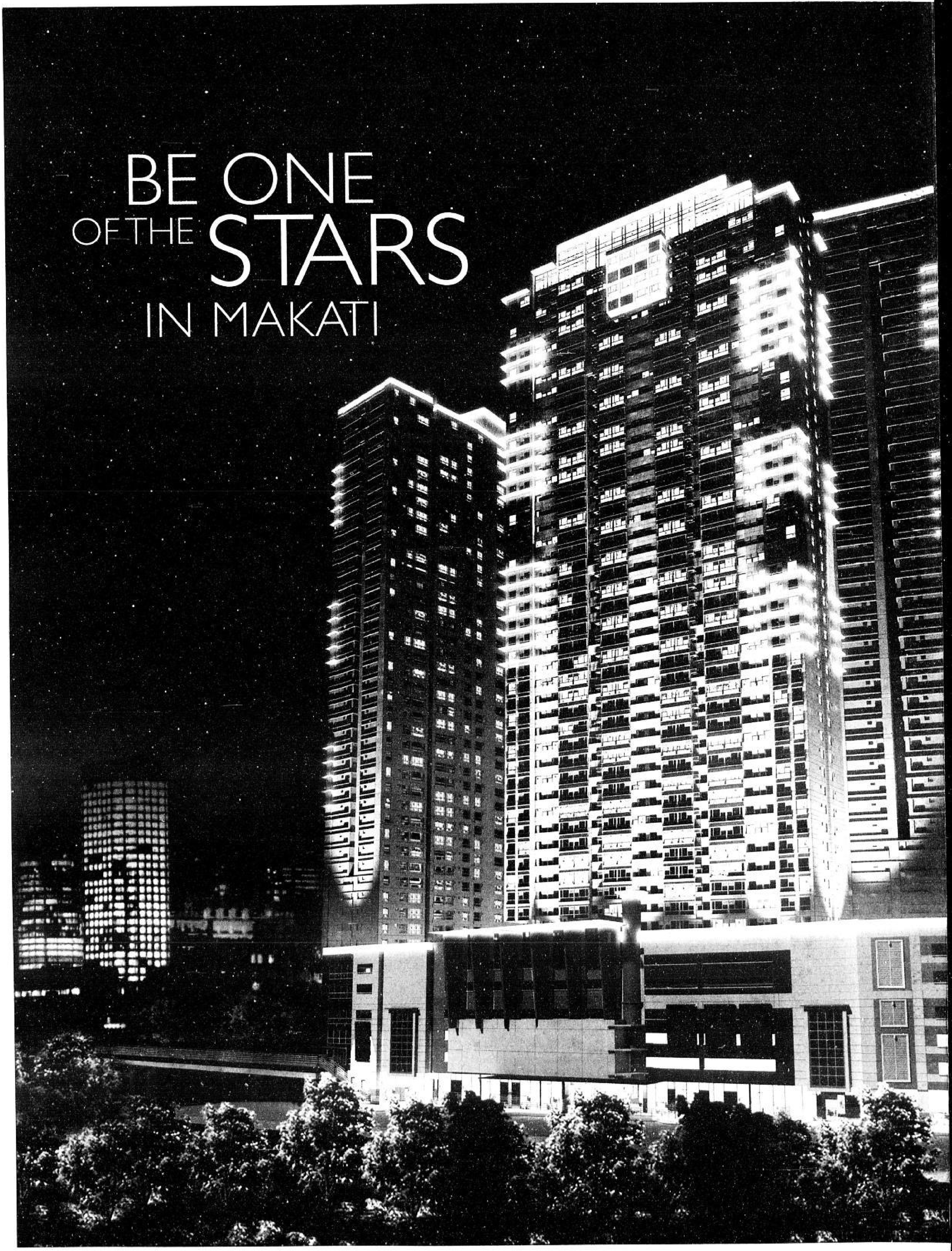
The third is Perseverance. A Marketing Man must remain positive at all times, specially in the face of challenges and adversity because only the Optimists win in this world. The Marketing Man welcomes, if not delights, in turning crises into opportunities. For the enterprising Chinese, "crisis" and "opportunity" are represented by the same character. "While the whole world weeps over a global tragedy, the tissue-maker sleeps soundly."

The fourth is possessing Problem-Solving skills. The Marketing Man seeks creative solutions to various business problems, not just in marketing, but in advertising, media, sales, distribution, R&D (research and development), manufacturing, logistics, finance, and HR (human resources), and even offers creative solutions to problems besetting one's partners.

The fifth is being Participative and People-Oriented based on the realization that no one is as good individually as he or she is good collectively as a member of a high-performance team.

Finally, the Marketing Man must be Persuasive by exuding confidence in all forms of communication—written, oral and yes, visual.





Affordable medicines? Try The Generics Pharmacy

EXPENSIVE MEDICINES GIVE headache to many people today. This has led former Sen. and Health Secretary Juan Flavier to create that endearing slogan "Bawal magkasakit" (Never get sick) as a stark reminder on the cost of drugs and medicines.

In recent years, however, there have been attempts to convince the public to buy generic drugs because they cost less than branded medicines. One of those selling affordable medicines is The Generics Pharmacy.

The Generics Pharmacy was actually set up in 2001, but its beginnings can be traced back to 1959 when a group of Filipino entrepreneurs took over the reins of a registered company that has been importing and wholesaling pharmaceutical products.

In 1989, with the prices of medical and pharmaceutical products soaring, the company decided to sell generic drugs to help less privileged Filipinos avail cheap medicines.

Benjamin Liuson, one of the entrepreneurs and now the president of the company, said they first sold the generic brands wholesale to government hospitals.

But when stocks from these hospitals ran out, doctors would advise patients to go to the company's head office in Quezon Avenue. "Of course we couldn't give them any medicines because our operations only sold wholesale to hospitals," Liuson said.

So in 2001, the company launched retail pharmacy operations by setting up The Generics Pharmacy. It has since become a successful venture hinged largely on the efficacy of generic drugs and their significantly lower prices.

Liuson said generic drugs are cheaper because they have been manufactured without the same development costs that new branded drugs entail.

And to provide more Filipinos with affordable medicines, Liuson said they have decided to share the business with entrepreneurs who share the company's vision of charitable service.

For as little as P300,000, an individual or an institution can set up a Generics Pharmacy outlet that will make medicines within reach of the public.

Its commitment to serve is further bolstered by a friendly service. The Generics Pharmacy is the only pharmacy that gives the 20 percent discount to senior citizens even without the booklet. "As long as they have the prescription, we will ask no questions," Liuson said.

It also conducts regular doctor-patient consultations absolutely free of charge. At present, free consultations are conducted in three locations: at the St. Francis Square, Ortigas Center, Taft, Pasay and Ever Gotesco, Malabon.

Nielsen survey: Pinoys prefer 'tried-and-tested' treatments

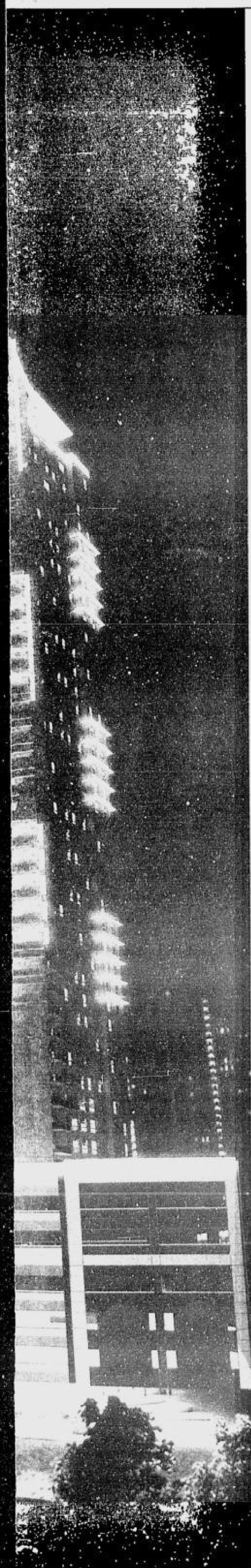
FILIPINOS HAVE ALWAYS depended on the "tried and tested" formula. From an aunt's secret "tinola" recipe, to grandma's soup, they tend to rely on stuff that has "withstood the test of time."

So it was not a big surprise when a recent Nielsen survey showed that when Filipinos get ill, they tend to use medications that have been used by the family for years, those recommended by a doctor or pharmacist, or brands seen or heard in advertisements.

Headaches, colds and cough are common complaints among Filipinos, according to the survey, and most often, use medications that are already available in their homes. An entire household uses the same medicine for illnesses due to strong loyalty to brands that are "tried and tested."

Many believe that a tried and tested medicine that was effective for one will have the same effect on the other.

Use of herbal medications is also quite popular among Filipinos, especially those living in the province. *Princess Daisy C. Ominga*



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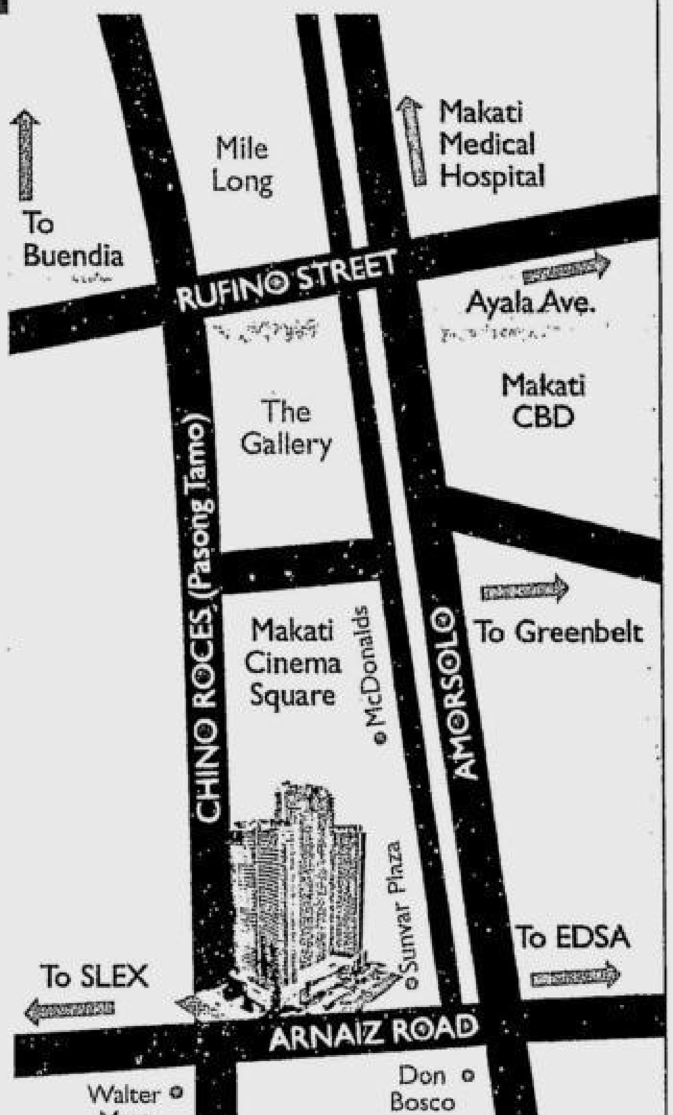

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Business influentials pick Web over TV for trusted news

HONG KONG—AN ANNUAL STUDY OF regional business stakeholders shows that web-based media have overtaken television as a first source of trusted news and information about business. Web-based media now trail only newspapers in the study.

The Asia-Pacific Edelman study, released recently, and part of global public relations firm Edelman's annual Asia Pacific Stakeholder Study conducted by Harris Interactive Inc., examines the opinions of 1,050 business stakeholders in Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia.

Edelman is the world's largest independent public relations firm, with 3,000 employees in 48 offices worldwide. This latest survey was its fifth annual Asia Pacific Stakeholder Research study conducted in partnership with Harris Interactive Inc., one of the world's leading research houses.

The research objective was to understand which factors are most important to stakeholders when corporations build relationships with them.

"The web is no longer an alternative to mainstream media, it is the mainstream media," said Alan VanderMolen, Edelman's Asia-Pacific President. "The key point for business is not that the web is a source of information, it is that web-based media are a source of dialogue with business influentials. Business needs to view itself as enablers of conversations about products, services and issues instead of viewing itself as communicators of a specific message."

> The latest Edelman study also shows sharp increase in intensity on expectations for responsible corporate behavior by business firms

Further underscoring the strength and influence of the web, respondents in the survey said they would turn to a company's website more often than any other source of information when gathering information about that company.

Following the company's website, respondents said they would talk to friends who work at the company, use newspapers, turn to business blogs and, finally, tune in to local broadcast media.

"We believe the massive shift in media selection—to web-based news sources, to a company's own website and to employees of the company—underscores a broader trend in democratization of media and information," VanderMolen said. "In today's world, consumers of news and information are increasingly skeptical and discerning; not to mention, they want to talk back to the source of information, not simply consume it."

While business stakeholders are moving toward more interactive sources and channels of information, they are also increasingly changing what drives their views of companies.

Image drivers

Two characteristics of reputation moved significantly in this year's study: Management/ Leadership Strength and Ethics/Integrity.

Management/Leadership Strength is now the top reputation driver for business operating in Asia Pacific, overtaking brand and product quality. Complementary to that, the biggest increase in any reputation driver during the past 12 months is Ethics/Integrity.

"We believe both of these factors reflect the increased access to information about business that is driven by the web," VanderMolen said. "We are seeing a near insatiable thirst for information about who leads companies and how those companies conduct their businesses."

Also increasing considerably in this year's study is the intensity in all drivers of "good and responsible behavior." Three of those drivers, in particular, are becoming more important: open communication with employees, transparency, and concerned/active about community welfare.

"The study shows that stakeholder expectations of business have risen across the board, especially in areas related to how businesses are using their core competencies to address the needs of stakeholders, noted VanderMolen.

FROM LEFT: Sander Bastes, Business Development Director of Logica CMG; Peter Yap, Senior Vice President of Allied Bank; Melissa Tan, Director for Outsourcing Solutions of Logica CMG-Singapore; Francisco Caparros, BancNet President

Bankers take a closer look at BPO

MORE THAN 300 BANKS AND IT executives recently gathered at the Dusit Hotel to take a closer look at business process outsourcing, or BPO, as applied to electronic banking.

The event, an Executive Forum on "BPO in eBanking: The Wave of the Future," was organized by Bancnet, the largest and only multi-channel payment network in the country to mark its 17th anniversary.

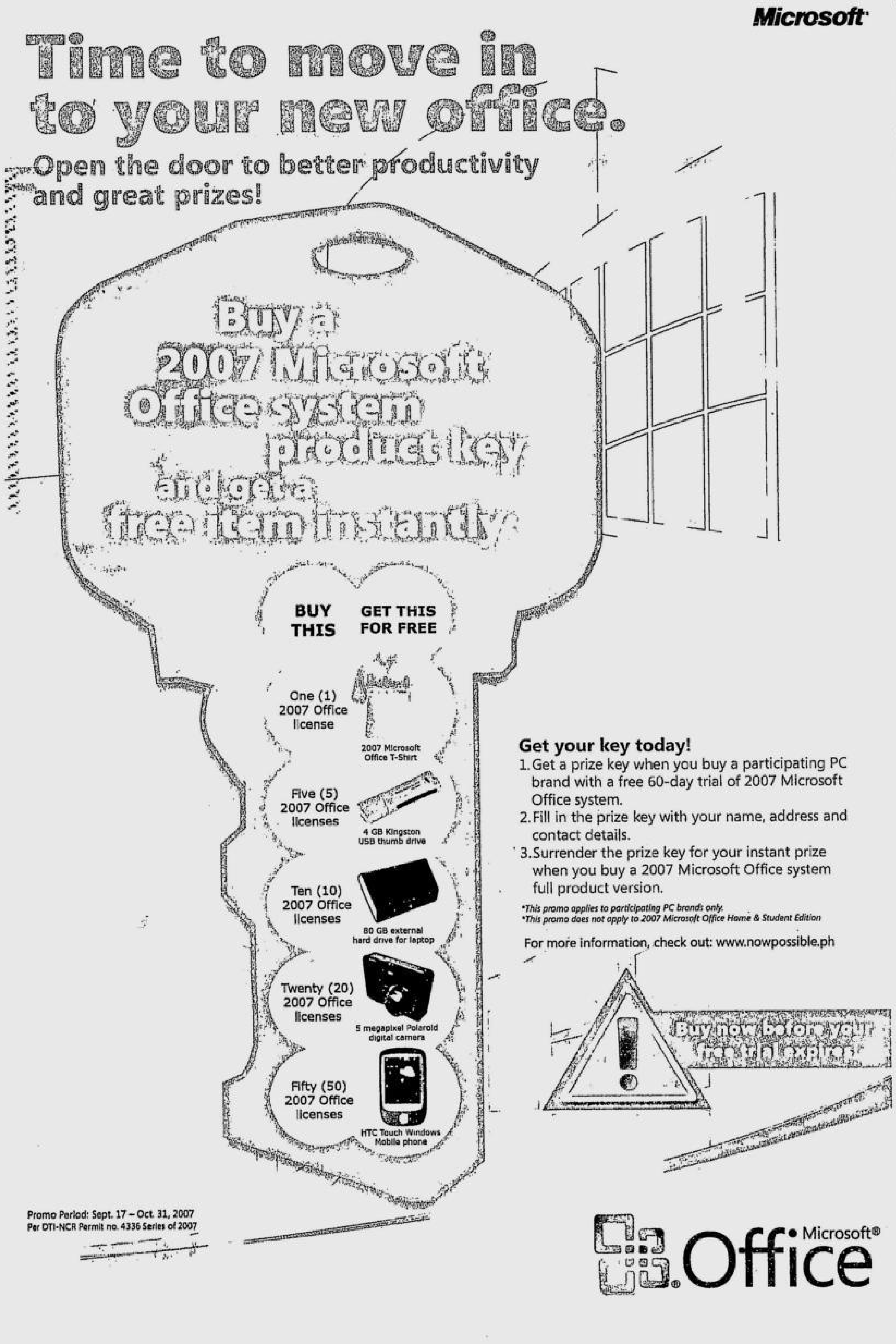
Albert Lip Khen Lim, head of Global ATM and Shared Distribution at Standard Chartered Bank in Malaysia shared tips on how to profit from outsourcing e-banking channels.

Melissa Tan, Logica CMG's director for outsourcing solutions in Asia, flew from Singapore where she is based and presented cases showing other banks' experiences.

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, on the other hand, discussed the government's plan to partner with the private sector in outsourcing the systems for the electronic collection and payment of various government fees, charges, assessments and revenues.

Bancnet directors and officers led by its chairman Angelito Villanueva and president Francisco Caparros Jr. welcomed the guests.

STANDARD Chartered Bank VP Gail del Rosario is flanked by BancNet EVP Aris Zafra (left) and Standard Chartered Bank-Malaysia's Albert Lip Khen Lim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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 4336 Series of 2007

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Virtual lifestyle club, anyone?

From page B2-1

members can easily get tickets to concerts and broadway shows abroad.

Brains behind concept

Other than Ricky and Pam, the other minds behind TREi include Daks Maniquis, Pops Del Rosario, Lally de Castro and Cyrus Cruz and Daniel Feliciano.

Ricky has a very interesting way of training his chefs: A regular lunch or dinner treat in various culinary destinations, not just in Philippine cities but around the world.

He loves to travel with his family and friends and to spend time with his spiritual community, the BCBP (Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals).

Pam, a mother of two, had had stints in large organizations. She values family time and holds it sacred, whether it's just grocery-shopping, watching a movie, or hanging out at home over pizza.

Pops, TREi's director for operations, is a member of the Les Clefs d'Or, an international association of the best concierges in the world spread over 45 countries.

Wielding his expertise, he introduced an unprecedented concept for TREi: Transforming the hotel concierge into a 24/7 personalized service called TLCs (Trei Lifestyle Counselors). Members can call the TLCs anytime to make a rush travel booking abroad, secure hospital arrangements for an emergency, or to even make a vet appointment for their pets.

He also loves restoring classic Mercedes Benzes.

Lally, Trei's associate director of sales and membership, unleashes her creativity through pottery. Together with her husband, she turned a corner of their house into an art gallery filled with pots, dining pieces, pitchers and vases which they made.

Daks, Trei's chief financial officer, has personally tested TREi's dedicated service. Some time ago, a relative abroad needed to come home for an emergency but the airlines were fully booked. "I was almost ready to give up when I remembered my TREi officemates," he recalls. He called the concierge desk and within the day, the problem was solved.

Cyrus, a graduate of the Oregon State University, is the firm's image police. He makes sure everything TREi does lives up to the company's image and brand positioning. This former Hotel PonteFino officer slimmed down from 260 pounds to 185 in less than a year, thanks to his rigid road and gym workouts.

Daniel, TREi's marketing gem, is an expert in people relations. "One of my strengths is reading people, knowing what they want or need," he says.

This brawny jock was in the school's flag football and rifle teams in college. Daniel is also a travel fanatic, a big comic book fan, and was part of the rock/Emo band Namor.

Business development director Lito Fernandez is a father of four who regularly goes to the beach to de-stress. He said the TREi concept is "bold and daring and we're proud to pioneer this kind of service in the country."

The group is already selling shares but the official launch will be in mid-November.

Fast, big bucks from soaps

THERE IS NO DIRTY CASH or loose change to be derived from making soaps and detergents—only fast and big bucks.

Learn how to make different soaps and detergents and start your own business in the comfort of your homes.

The Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making at the College of Social Work and Community Development, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, on Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

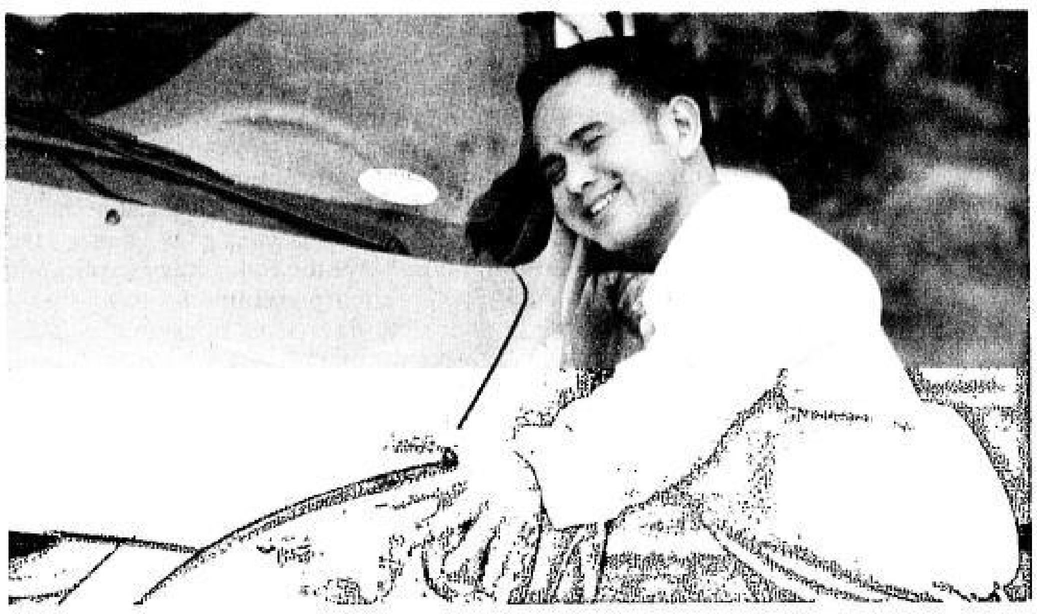
Topics to be discussed are material sourcing and costing.

Participants will be taught how to make, among others, liquid dishwashing soap, liquid hand soap, bar detergent, herbal bath soap, and glycerin powder soap.

Bonus courses include making liquid bleach, tile and bowl cleaner, fabric softener, car shampoo, and processing virgin coconut oil for soap.

For questions, please call 4367826; 9136551; 4337601 and 4211577.

Automobile Association of the Philippines



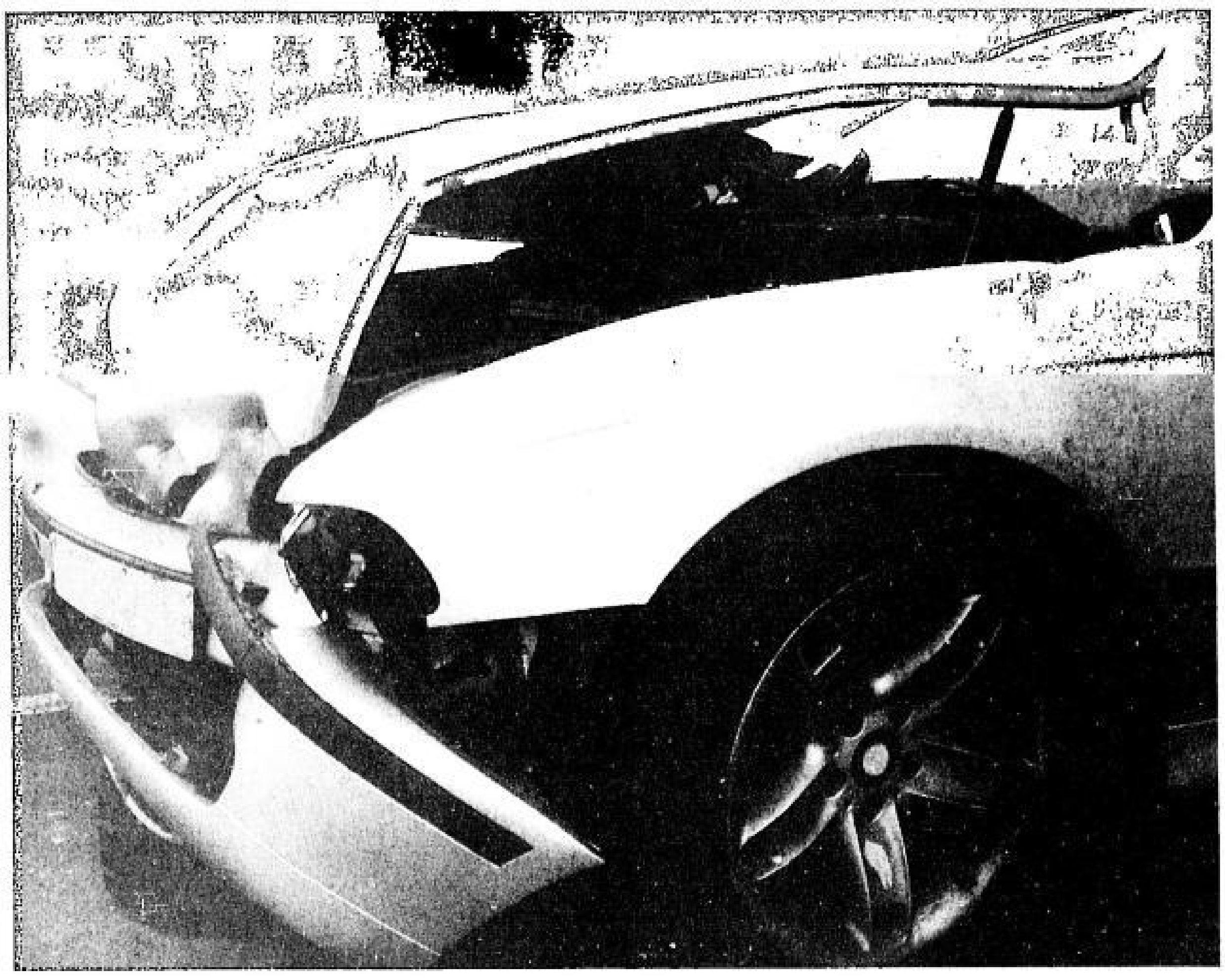
Protect yourself and your car

YOU JUST BOUGHT YOUR FIRST CAR. IT is already three years old but it still looks and feels brand new. You can't help congratulating yourself for getting the best deal for this road machine. Yet you can't help but feel uneasy, too, especially at night when you leave your car parked on the street in front of your apartment.

Admit it: you are worried about your car. At the back of your head, you are thinking- What if a drunk driver bumps my car in the middle of the night? What if the neighborhood thugs play a trick on me and decide to vandalize my shiny ride? Or what if my cars get burglarized or, worse, stolen?

The feeling is normal for all first-time car owners. That is why many have invested in car alarms, steering wheel locks and yes, car insurance.

INSURANCE/ B3-1



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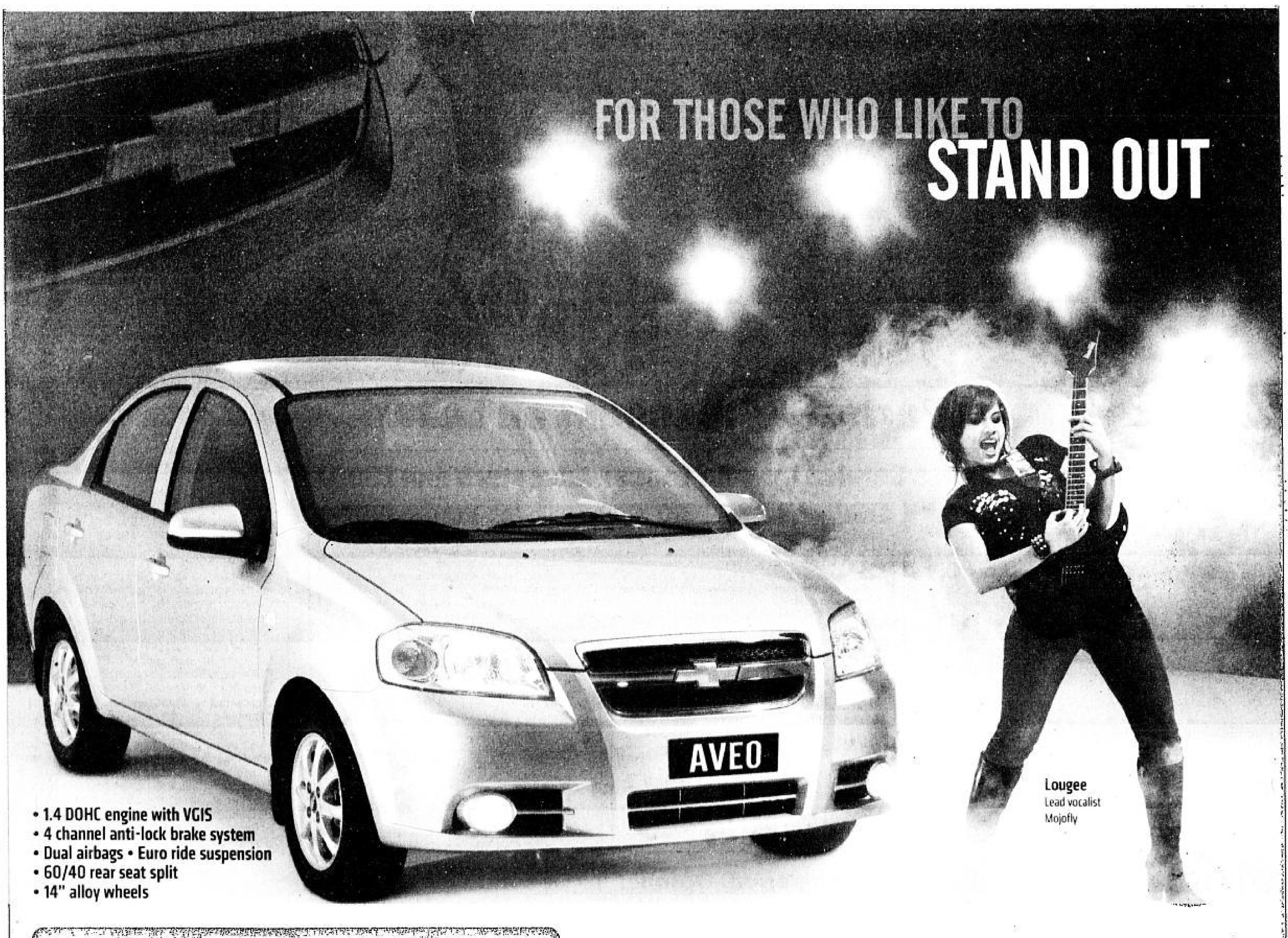

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Protect yourself and your car

From page B3-1

What's insurance?

All brand new cars are sold with insurance. But since you got your ride second-hand, most likely your car's previous owner has already dropped the comprehensive cover and made do with the dirt-cheap TPL. That would not really let you sleep soundly at night.

For those new to car ownership, there are two types of motor vehicle insurance: the CTPL or Compulsory Third Party Liability and the comprehensive. CTPL, as the term compulsory implies, is required by the government before a motor vehicle is registered. It costs only P560 for a private car and carries P100,000 coverage in case of death or injury to a person other than yourself, your family or your employees due to an accident involving your vehicle.

CTPL does not protect you from paying the damage to your car or the car/s of other people. Neither does it protect you from car thieves.

Comprehensive coverage is the answer to these concerns. It carries protection for theft, damage to other people's property, damage to your car and in some cases, even provides protection for yourself and your passengers in case of an accident.

Not insurance-conscious

Melecio Malillin, president of the Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific (IIAP), said most Filipinos are not insurance-conscious. The IIAP, a non-profit association organized and sustained by the insurance industry, promotes insurance and professionalizes those working in the business.

"The Philippines has a measly 15-percent insurance penetration, meaning 85 percent of our population do not have any form of insurance," he said. "Only a minority of motorists - those with brand-new cars - buy comprehensive insurance, while the majority or those with cars more than five years old, only carry CTPL. And the reason they buy CTPL is because it's required."

To promote insurance, Malillin said the Philippine Insurance Club (PIC), a social group of insurance practitioners, is organizing an Insurance Consciousness Week this coming Oct. 15 to 19 with activities lined up at various places. One PIC activity is a campus tour. "Our colleagues will visit La Salle on Oct. 16 and Mapua on Oct. 17 to educate students on the importance of insurance," he said.

Why insurance is important

Ramon Dimacali, president of the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (Pira), the umbrella organization of all non-life insurance companies in the country, said insurance is necessary for worry-free car ownership. Dimacali also heads the Federal Phoenix Assurance Company, AAP's partner in providing insurance for its members, their cars and even their homes.

Dimacali pointed out that car insurance is important not only for motorists but also more so for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users who are more vulnerable. "We should always think about our children. What if they get hit by a car and the car is not insured? What do you do now?"

How to get the best insurance

If you are convinced by now about the value of car insurance, experts have some tips on how to get the best deal.

Malillin said it is important to buy insurance from an agent and a company that you trust will not fail you. "There are 90 companies in the Philippines that sell car insurance. You should buy from an agent you know and from a company that you know would pay your claim when you need it," he said.

To get a backgrounder on insurance companies, including complaints filed against them if any, Malillin advises buyers to inquire with the Insurance Commission. Access their website at www.insurance,gov.ph.

"Insurance is only a piece of paper. The important thing here is the promise contained in that paper. Will the company honor that promise? Will the company pay your claim in the period prescribed by law which is within 30 days after perfection of documents?"

Dimacali said buyers should ask their agents about the particulars of the insurance cover they are buying. He explained that a car insurance policy is actually a combination of different forms of coverage and the buyer can choose specific coverage that he feels he truly needs.

"If he does not consider theft a big risk since his car is old, then he can drop theft coverage and get as much as a 40-percent reduction in premiums," Dimacali said. "Theft is a very expensive coverage because it does not have depreciation. So if you're really sure that your car is secure, then you can skip that coverage."

Dimacali added that insurance companies are willing to insure all types of vehicles, including old cars and motorcycles, except those considered antique or vintage. "As long as the car has spare parts available in the market, we can insure it," he said.

He disputes the myth that comprehensive car insurance is expensive. "The premium is now at an all-time low. You pay just 1.2 percent of your car's market value and for that small sum, you can already sleep soundly at night."

Tucson wins at AutoPacific awards

HYUNDAI'S BEST-SELLING SUV, THE TUCSON, was recently awarded Most Ideal Compact Crossover SUV at the AutoPacific's 2007 Ideal Vehicle Awards (IVA) in Fountain Valley, California. Three other Hyundai vehicles won top honors in other product segments: Sonata, Most Ideal Premium Mid-size Car; Elantra, Most Ideal Compact Car; and the Entourage, Most Ideal Minivan. In this year's AutoPacific Ideal Vehicle Awards, auto manufacturers were ranked according to how compellingly up-to-the-mark their 2007 model cars or trucks were in meeting customers' expectations and criteria. Vehicles regarded as the most "ideal" were those that customers said they would change the least. From over 24,000 respondents, AutoPacific determined the winning vehicles by asking the owners to rate their own car or truck on how close it came to "ideal" in areas such as exterior size; passenger roominess; cargo space; driver's seat comfort; driver's seat visibility; interior technology; power; ease of getting in and out; interior storage compartments; and tires and wheels. The essential data provided by the buyers of new vehicles purchased from September 2006 through December 2006 reflected the results of this year's IVA ratings. "Hyundai has done an outstanding job understanding their target buyer and is creating the product that is 'ideal' for its buyers," said AutoPacific's president George Peterson. Hyundai Asia Resources Inc, the official distributor of Hyundai here in the Philippines, is likewise in high spirits over the notable recognition received by Hyundai in the United States. According to Fe Perez-Agudo, EVP and chief operating officer of Hari, "This recent roster of accolades only goes to show Hyundai's firm commitment to deliver utmost quality to our customer-quality that exceeds even the most stringent of customer expectations at all fronts of the vehicle's overall performance, from design to engine power, and down to every minute detail. Our customers' continuous show of appreciation and support is clearly indicative of their confidence in our signature of quality." Hari also joins the ranks of the most outstanding Hyundai companies as it is awarded Distributor of the Year by Hyundai Motor Co. This is the second time that Hari has been given the prestigious award. The first was in 2006, when Hari bested other Hyundai distributors all over Asia and the Pacific with its phenomenal 103-percent increase in sales performance, hitting its target market share of 5 percent in 2005. Hyundai is currently top 5 among competing brands in the Philippine automotive industry. In celebration of Hyundai's victory here and abroad, Hari makes the award-winning Tucson even easier to own with three splendid deals to choose from in the Silver Platter Deals promo. Silver Platter Deal 1 offers a P20,000 discount for cash buyers; Silver Platter Deal 2, offers for free the All-In-One Package of Comprehensive Insurance, Chattel Mortgage and 3 years LTO registration; and Silver Platter Deal 3, or the Special Financing Package, offers customers a choice between Low Downpayment schemes and Low Monthly Amortization rates. Now, you can own this award-winning and unforgivably affordable SUV with the Tucson's Silver Platter Deals promo which runs from Oct. 5 to Nov. 30. Check out a Hyundai dealer near you today!

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8. Check high tension wires for damages
9. Check clutch release cylinder for leaks and condition
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11. Check drive shaft boots for damages
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Making motoring fun

By Gus Lagman, AAP President

The Billboard Law

ABOUT A YEAR AND TWO WEEKS AGO today, super-typhoon Milenyo ravaged Metro Manila and many parts of Luzon, causing billions of pesos in damage to people's lives and properties.

I still remember that day when Milenyo's 145-kph winds uprooted trees that caused instant blockades in Makati and Pasay, peeled off marble blocks from some buildings and tossed scaffoldings in others.

Milenyo's wrath was most felt by those in the outdoor advertising industry as the howler twisted metal structures and hurled billboards down on Edsa.

But the biggest outcome from Milenyo's devastation was the swift passage of a bill that sought to regulate the billboard business. Sponsored by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, the bill dubbed The Anti-Billboard Blight Act of 2006 or simply the Billboard Law was approved by the Senate on the same day it was proposed.

Santiago said the measure is far from being a total ban on billboards. She stressed that it only imposes restrictions on billboards that have proliferated in violation of the Building Code and the Civil Code.

The bill prohibits the erection of billboards within 1,000 feet of any interchange or road, right of way or underpass, bridge or tunnel or any street intersection, or within the same distance from the circumference of the property line of a historic site, church, school, hospital or similar public areas.

In addition, it bans billboards that obstruct the view of vehicular or pedestrian traffic or that may be confused with any traffic control device or sign. Likewise, the measure imposes a limit of 300 square feet on the size of billboards.

Although President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has certified the bill as urgent, the House of Representatives has been sitting on it. With the strict provisions of the bill-especially regarding the sizes of billboards and the prescribed distance to the roads - I can only imagine the "millions" of reasons being presented by the billboards industry to delay this important measure.

Obviously, with the lull in the passage of the bill, the industry can still make a killing from illegal billboards before these are demolished.

The AAP's stand on this issue remains the same. We believe that billboards, having been left unregulated for years, have turned our cities into a mess. They are so close to roads that they pose great danger to us motorists. And because they get bigger each day, these billboards distract us from the traffic and safety signs that should guide us as we drive.

We understand that the Billboard Law would mean a major loss of revenue for advertising agencies. But then, safety and the public good are what is at stake here. No business should profit at the expense of public well-being.

The AAP supports the Anti-Billboard Blight Act and urges our lawmakers to stop delaying its passage---before another super typhoon forces them to rush it into law.

AAP nominates Kanapi to Road Board

RETIRED Army General Angel Kanapi

THE AAP HAS NOMINATED one of its directors to be a member of the government's Road Board.

In a letter to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, AAP president Augusto C. Lagman nominated retired Army General Angel Kanapi to be one of three private sector representatives on the board.

A long-time director of the AAP, Kanapi was a member of the original Road Board during the time of Public Works and Highways Secretary Gregorio Vigilar. Kanapi was formerly the superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy and the defense attaché of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Washington. After his retirement, he served as 1st vice president of the general administration division of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp and later, vice president of the Toyota Foundation and concurrently vice president of the Metrobank Foundation before his election to the AAP board.

The Road Board determines how the Road User's Tax being paid by the motoring public is put to use. Created under Republic Act 8794 to ensure the adequate maintenance of national and provincial roads, the Road Board is composed of the Public Works and Highways Secretary as chair and the Finance Secretary, Budget Secretary and Transportation and Communications Secretary as members. The three private sector representatives are appointed by the President, who selects them from a list of nominees submitted by transport and motorist organizations.

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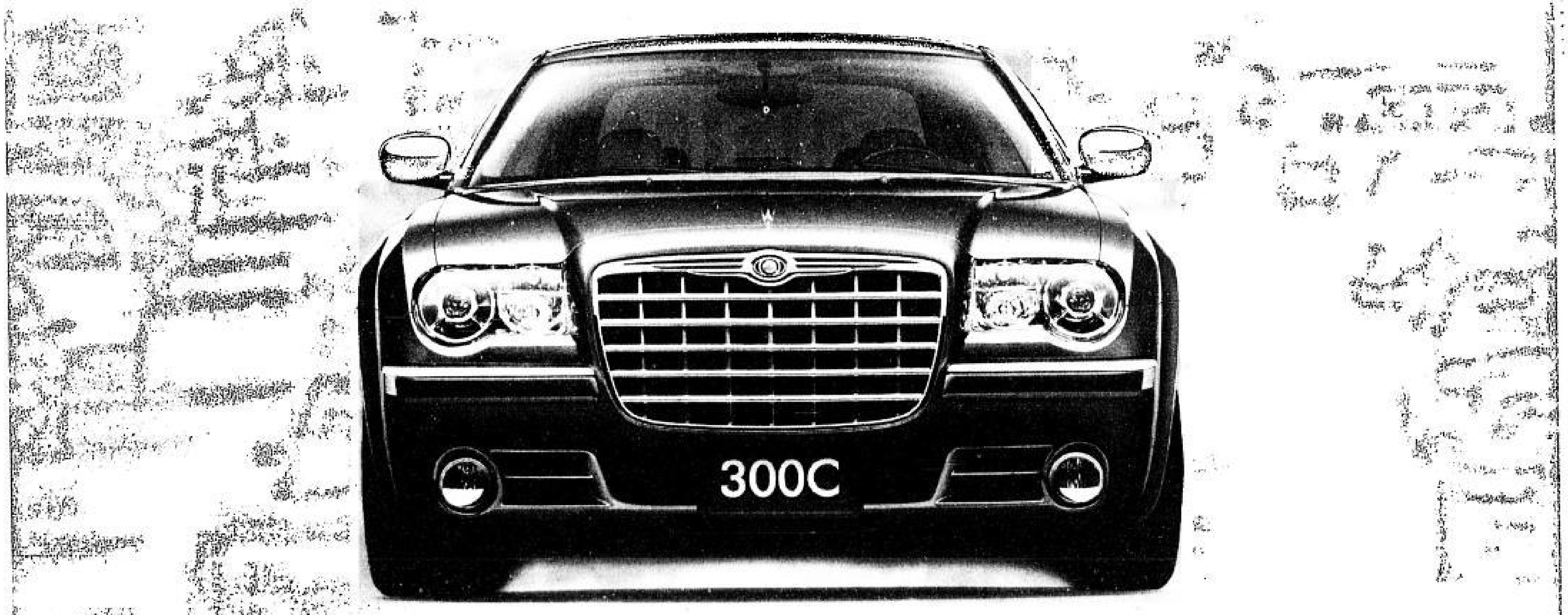

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3 YEAR

AAP IS CAR OF THE YEAR TECHNICAL PARTNER
The Automobile Association Philippines recently joined the 2007 Car of the Year project of the Car Awards Group Inc (Cagi) as its exclusive technical partner. AAP president Gus Lagman (left, seated) signed the agreement with Cagi president Ira Panganiban (center, seated) with Cagi external affairs vice president Andy Sevilla (right, seated) and (from left, standing) AAP director Aida Sevilla Mendoza, AAP treasurer Jogy Mantaring and AAP vice president Johnny Angeles as witnesses. Under the agreement, AAP will provide technical support to Coty 2007 in cash and in kind.

AAP now open for associate membership

AAP IS OPENING ITS DOORS TO SINGLE-car motorists through its newly created associate membership category.

Like the regular membership, AAP associate membership offers exceptional value and benefits. What differentiates it from regular membership is its much lower fee of P500. Couple this with AAP's one-time joining fee of P200 and you are well on your way to 365 days of worry-free motoring.

Aside from AAP's reliable emergency roadside service (ERS), an associate member receives a host of benefits such as P200,000 personal accident insurance from Federal Phoenix Assurance Co, free LTO registration assistance, free accident investigation assistance, discounts on ambulance service, anti-theft security glass etching and motor vehicle insurance discounts.

AAP's associate membership can also help you save money on a lot of things from hotel accommodations and restaurant meals to car repairs and auto accessories through the numerous discounts offered by AAP's business partners.

Get the best rate for various items like the AAP Outlast maintenance-free battery, Goodyear tires and even travel and property insurance services. Plus enjoy savings at over 150,000 locations worldwide through the Show Your Card & Save Network of the American Automobile Association (AAA) with which AAP is affiliated.

Unlike the two-vehicle registration allotment accorded to regular members, an associate member may register only one vehicle under his or her name. But because AAP is member-based, an associate membership bestows upon the card holder emergency roadside service for vehicles other than the one registered under his or her membership-provided that the associate member is present at the time of the ERS request.

The registered vehicle of an associate member is entitled to round-the-clock 24/7 ERS even if the member is not in the car.

It's easy to apply for AAP associate membership. Call 723-0808 and ask for the sales and marketing department. AAP's main office is at 683 Aurora Boulevard near Gilmore, Quezon City. Or you can go to any of AAP's extension offices in Makati, Alabang, Cebu and Davao.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACADEMY
Drivers of taxi cabs, jeepneys and buses learn the basics of road safety and road courtesy through a series of seminars being conducted by the Automobile Association Philippines in partnership with Toyota Motor Philippines, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board and the National Center for Transportation Studies of the University of the Philippines. The seminars, being held at UP Diliman, are part of the Public Transport Academy program of the LTFRB. Shown is LTFRB Chair Thomson Lantion (top) speaking before the drivers. Above, drivers learn how to carry an injured passenger in a lesson in first aid.

Customs should auction smuggled cars

THE TELEVISION IMAGE OF BACKHOES crushing a dozen luxury cars made AAP vice president Johnny Angeles feel uneasy. Not because he pitied the cars' owners or the cars themselves. He just couldn't stand the thought that tens of millions of pesos were thrown away when the cars were reduced into heaps of junk metal.

"That was money already in the government's hands. Why throw it away just to prove a point?" was his reaction to the government's destruction of smuggled luxury cars at Subic more than a month ago.

An anti-smuggling advocate himself, Angeles said the public relations stunt may have created a stir in the media, but he doubts if it would curb smuggling activities at the country's ports.

The AAP is writing President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to propose reviving the auction of smuggled vehicles by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) with the help of the private sector. Angeles recalled that during the administration of President Corazon Aquino, the AAP, then known as the Philippine Motor Association (PMA), was tapped to assist the BOC in disposing of more than a thousand smuggled vehicles that the government had seized from various ports.

The vehicles, Angeles said, were confiscated during the martial law era and were in various states of disrepair at the Manila International Container Terminal in the South Harbor of Manila.

Then Customs Commissioner Guillermo Parayno sought the help of the private sector, specifically the PMA and the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi), in determining the market value of the vehicles and then auctioning them off to private buyers.

The three-way partnership worked well.

The veteran AAP director said the association is willing to lend a hand once again to the government should it decide to revive the auction. "We would do it not because of the money AAP stands to earn, but because we want to help the government make money out of its assets. Destroying luxury cars is such a waste of very precious resources," he said.

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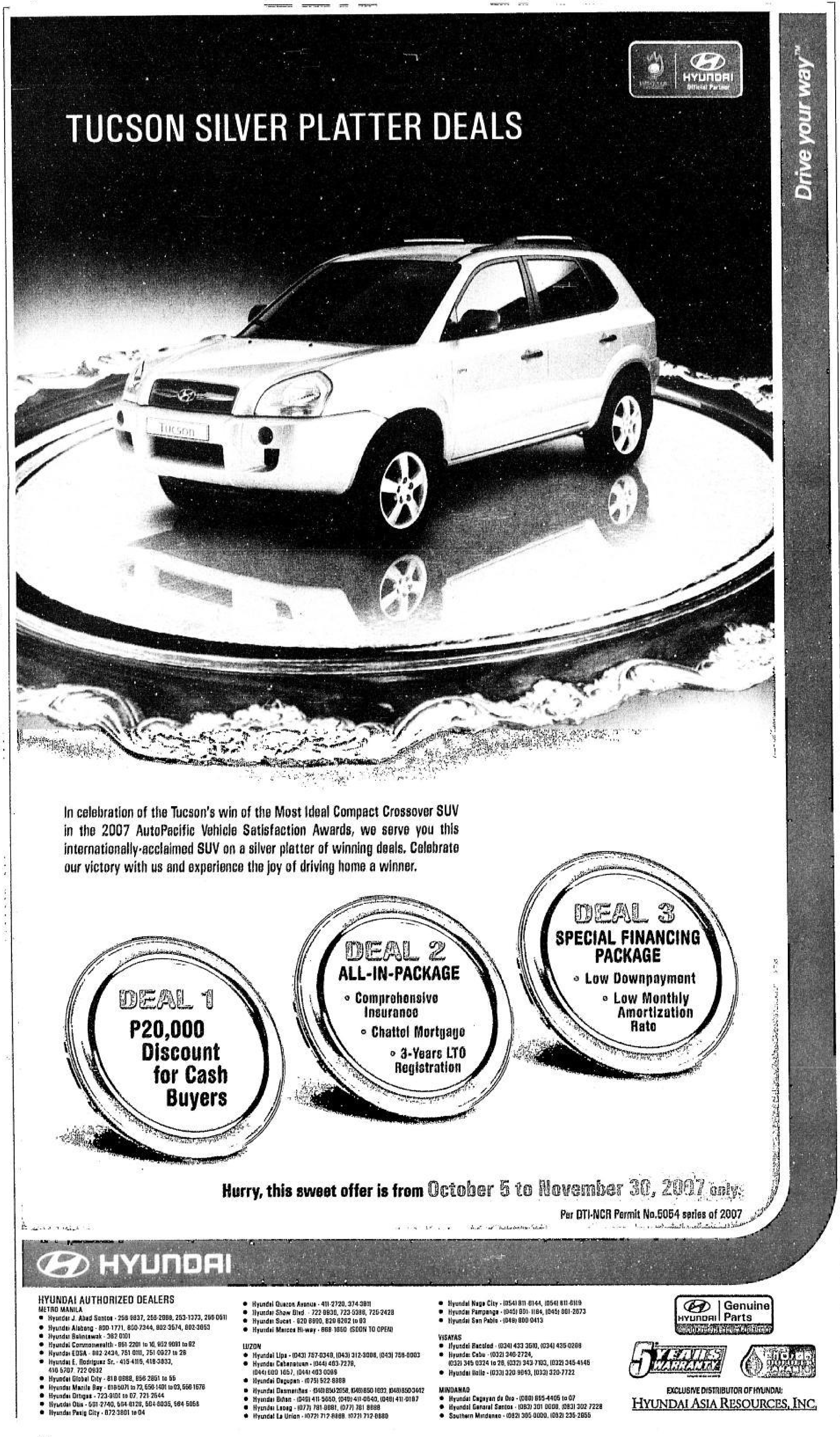

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LIFESTYLE

Ice age

Contributing editors Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Jenni Epperson support the fight against breast

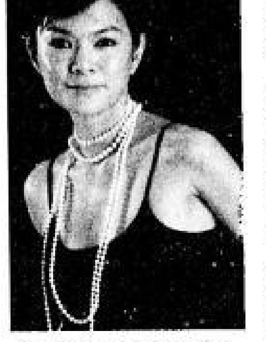
In the clear
Acrylic cuff, P995; Fortune acrylic and stainless bangles, P2,995/set of 7; acrylic cube bracelet, P1,495

Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez's Ice Age line of jewelry supplies Paul Smith

WE CASED THE METRO FOR THE BEST selection of bangles and bracelets that one can easily pile on or wear solo, and was pleasantly surprised to find a wide, ultra-stylish range from Ice Crystals, a local line of jewelry designed by supermodel Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez. The collection ran the gamut from organic *kamagong* bangles accentuated with colorful stones to sleek and modern acrylic cuffs that are fashion-forward yet wearable.

The pieces, which reflect the jewelry designer's understated style, are not the least bit overpowering or contrived. This is probably due in no small measure to Tweetie's sensible design philosophy. "I design easy pieces that can be worn with most anything. I don't do loud, showcase pieces that do more for the wearer than what is ample and appropriate. They are meant to pull a look together, bring some color and fancy to a basic wardrobe and cater to the wearer's current fashion mood," she says.

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

The pieces she calls "easy," however, are not in any way lacking in impact or wit. In our fashion barometer, they're definite keepers that can make or break an outfit, and spell the difference between blah and completely fab.

Considering Tweetie is a self-taught jewelry designer who has to work with whatever materials are available, the items she's churned out since she opened shop in 1999 were and still are of good quality and the best design. Of course, it helps that she continuously hones her craft through research and experimentation.

At present, she is enrolled in GIA's (Gemological Institute of America) distance-education program, which will make her an Accredited Jewelry Professional by next year.

Supplier for Paul Smith

We're not the only ones who think Tweetie's designs are world-class. Unknown to many, she has been supplying pieces to English brand Paul Smith. "This was a truly lucky break for me. I was on a down-spiral sometime last year due to an unbelievably bad sales streak. After a few sleepless nights, I told myself I had to wrap up my pity party and try something new. I built a basic website, conceptualized another label and sent out notices to people abroad, not really thinking where I wanted this to go. One of the viewers happened to be working for my longtime favorite label. He e-mailed to inquire about my company and, of course, my pieces. It took a while for him to place the order, putting me in an extreme emotional roller-coaster ride. After a new wave of sleepless nights and a legion of

ICE/ C2

Photographer Charles Lu/Wild Bunch
Styling Mikee Carreon and Bianca Valerio
Model Valerie de los Santos
Hair and makeup Bianca Valerio

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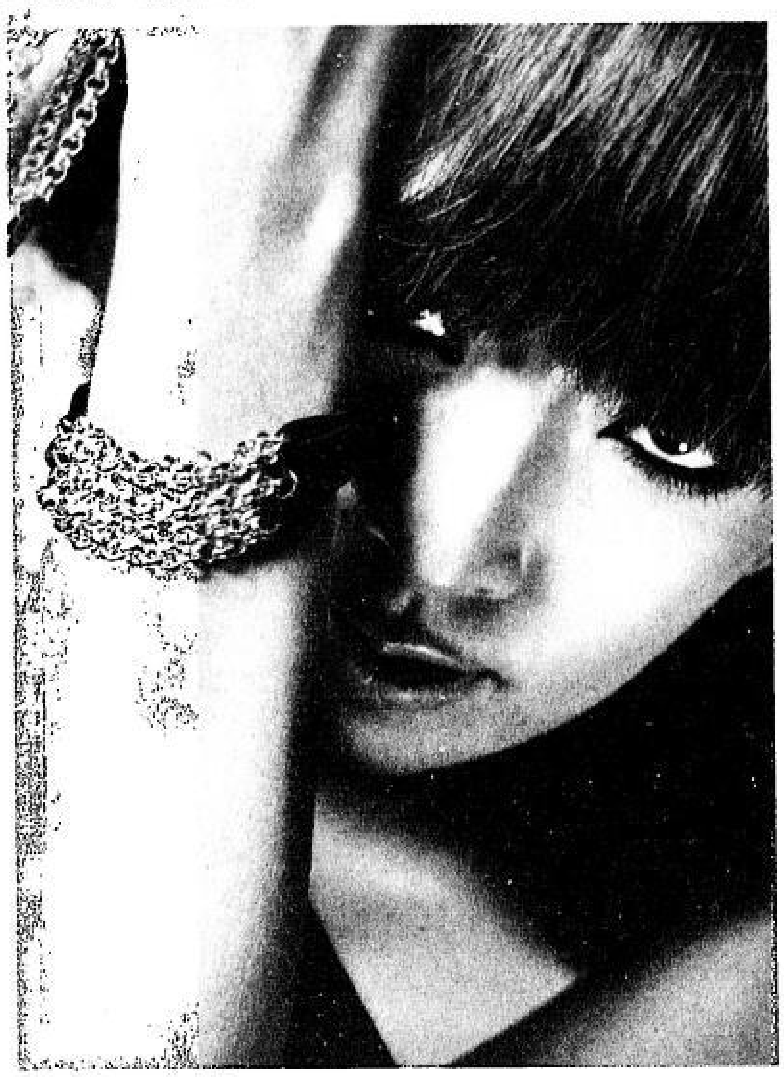


Chain mail
Alexandra bracelet, P1,150 each

Ice age

From page C1

heavenly requests, the order finally came. It was a glorious moment for me and my husband, Mon, who celebrated the much-anticipated news with me quietly," shares Tweetie.

That her pieces are unique and not something you can typically find in malls or other jewelry stores have also contributed to the success of Tweetie and Ice Crystals. "I purposely veer away from bazaars and other fashion-jewelry outlets so as not to be influenced by other people's ideas. There are many brands and styles out there that are quite nice and I'm afraid they might sway my take on design due to admiration. I am conscious that way," she says.

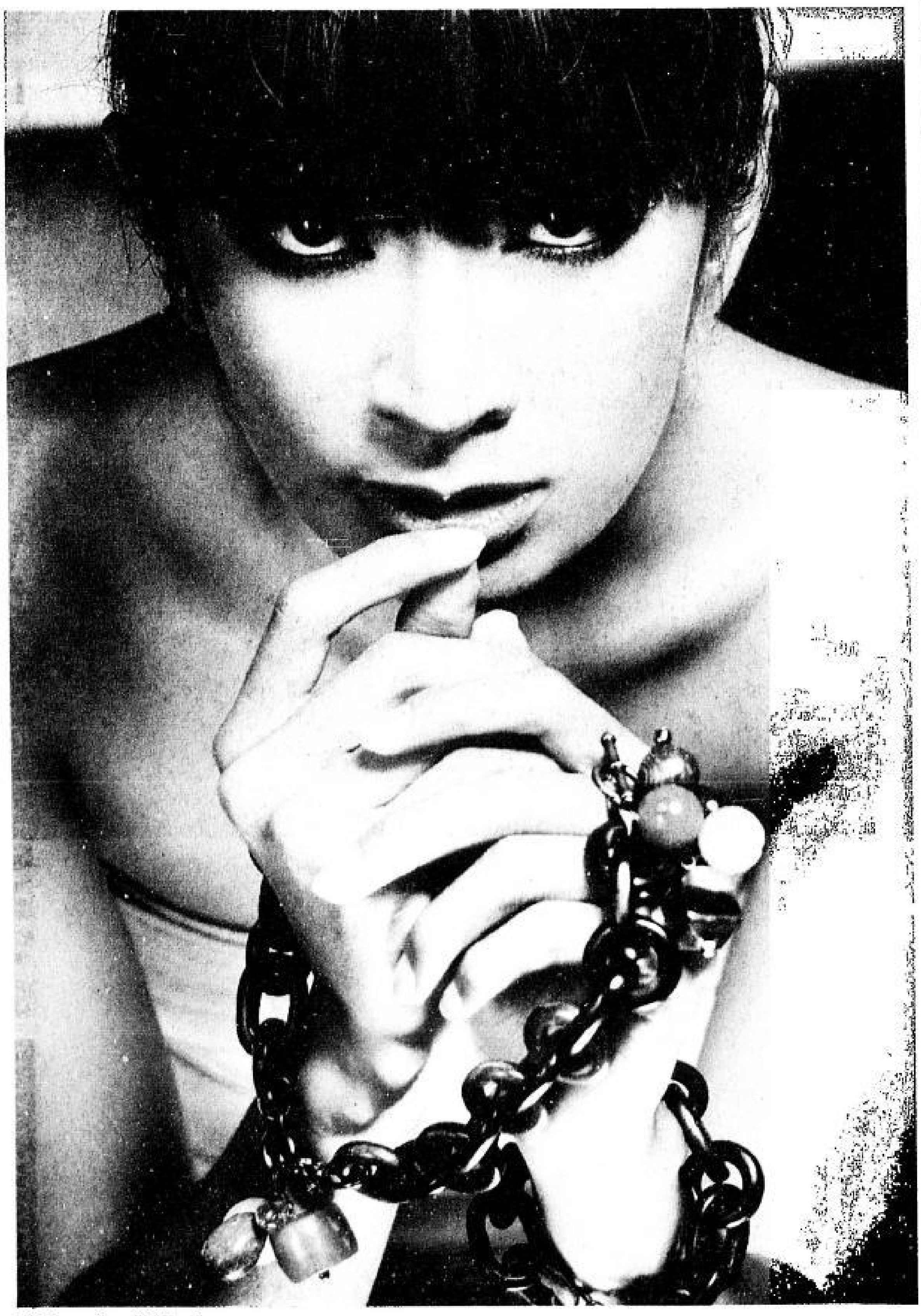
In spite of her accomplishments, Tweetie still takes satisfaction from simple moments such as seeing people wear her jewelry, hearing people talk about her brand, and receiving sincere compliments and encouragement from design personalities she admires like Cesar Gaupo.

And although there's obviously more room for Ice Crystals and Tweetie the jewelry designer to grow, she looks forward to engaging in other endeavors as well. When asked what she still wanted to achieve in the industry, she said, "I still want to do many things, though not necessarily in this industry. I want to learn many other skills, cultivate more friendships, be useful."

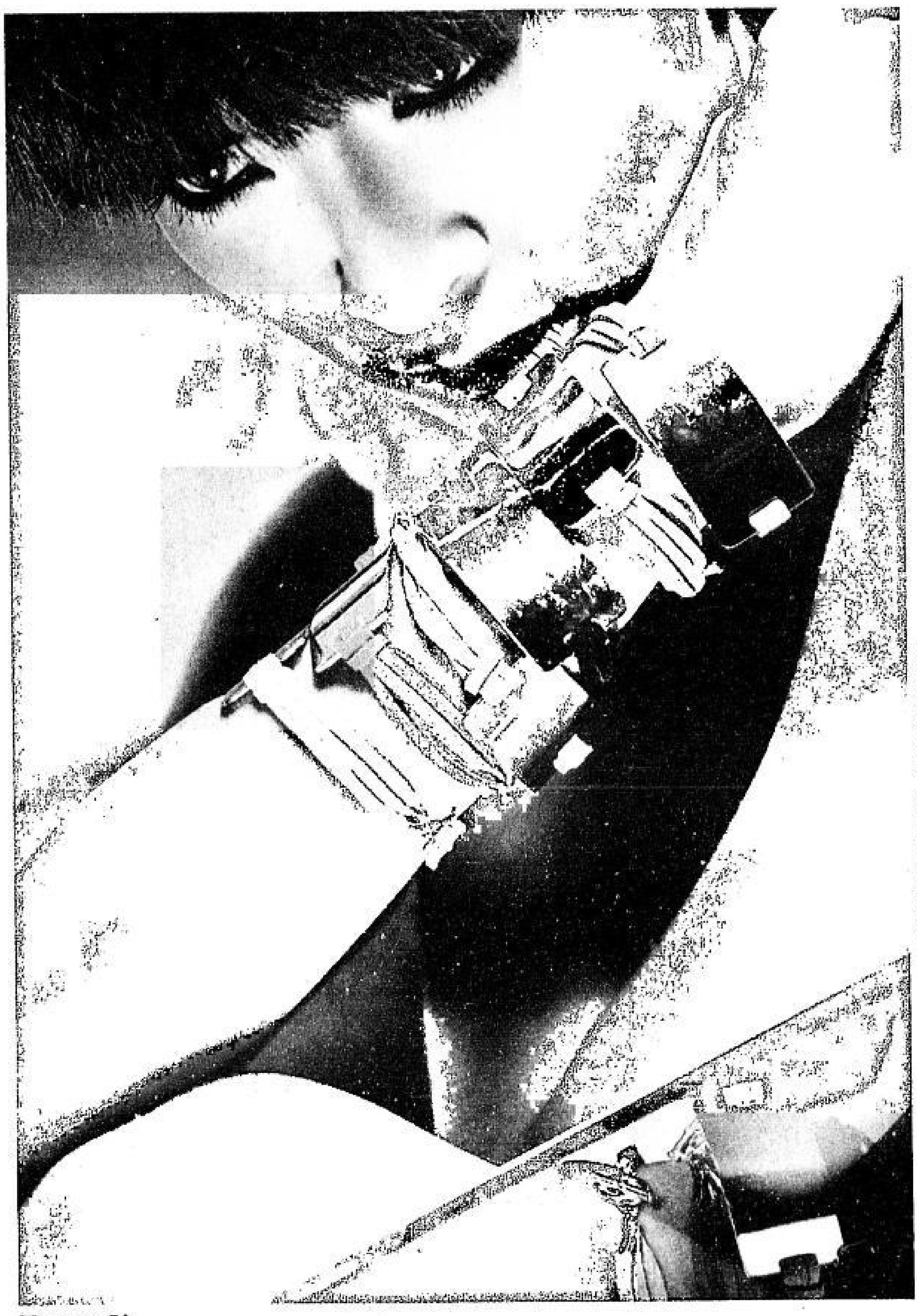
Ice Crystals is available at Rustan's Essenses Makati, Shangri-La and Alabang, also at Palms Country Club.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Charmed
Wooden bangles with charms, P3,250/set of 7



Missing link
Wooden bracelets with charms, P1,750 each

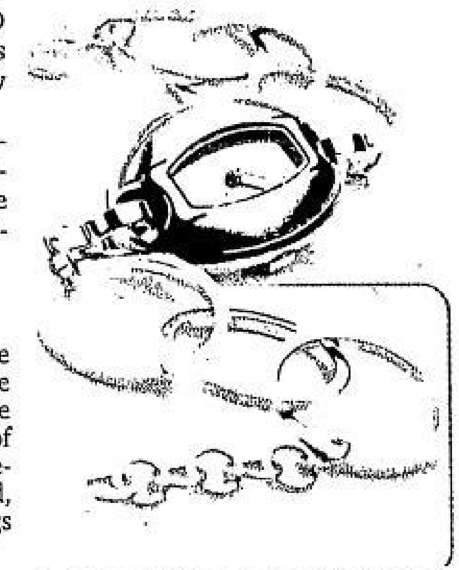


Tagged!
ID bracelets, P995 each

Time in a circle

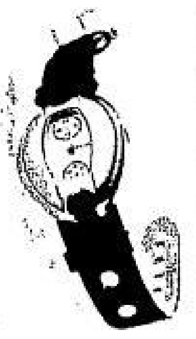
MANGO, THE SPANISH BRAND RENOWNED for fashionable and trend-setting clothes, has created a new collection of watches that is now available at Watch Republic.

The "O"-time series by Mango represents the integration of precision timekeeping and stylish accessorizing. Characterized by an oval-shaped face inspired by the "O" in the Mango logo, these timepieces come in three different lines:



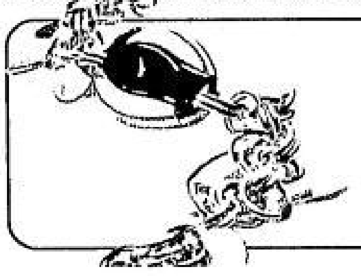
"O"-sexy

Made from a splendid mixture of materials like satin, mesh, chains and charms, the "O"-sexy line includes models that can also be worn around the neck, the ankle, or the waist as belts. Its range of designs includes lizard-look straps joined by a series of chains, lavish hues of pink and yellow gold, luxurious fabric puffballs doubling as fastenings and delicate charms.



"O"-riginal

This offers a comfortable combination of style and reliability, in various designs that go well with your mood—from leather straps decorated with studs or tribal prints, to ones with sporty black details, fabric straps in fresh colors, or bracelet details made of chains.



"O"-ccasion

The "O"-ccasion line delivers models that are made especially to match your fashionable cocktail dresses. Details like small, delicately crafted Swarovski crystals or metal flowers and pearly bracelets create sparkle and shine. A number of "O"-ccasion watches have detachable bracelets that allow you to create new combinations.

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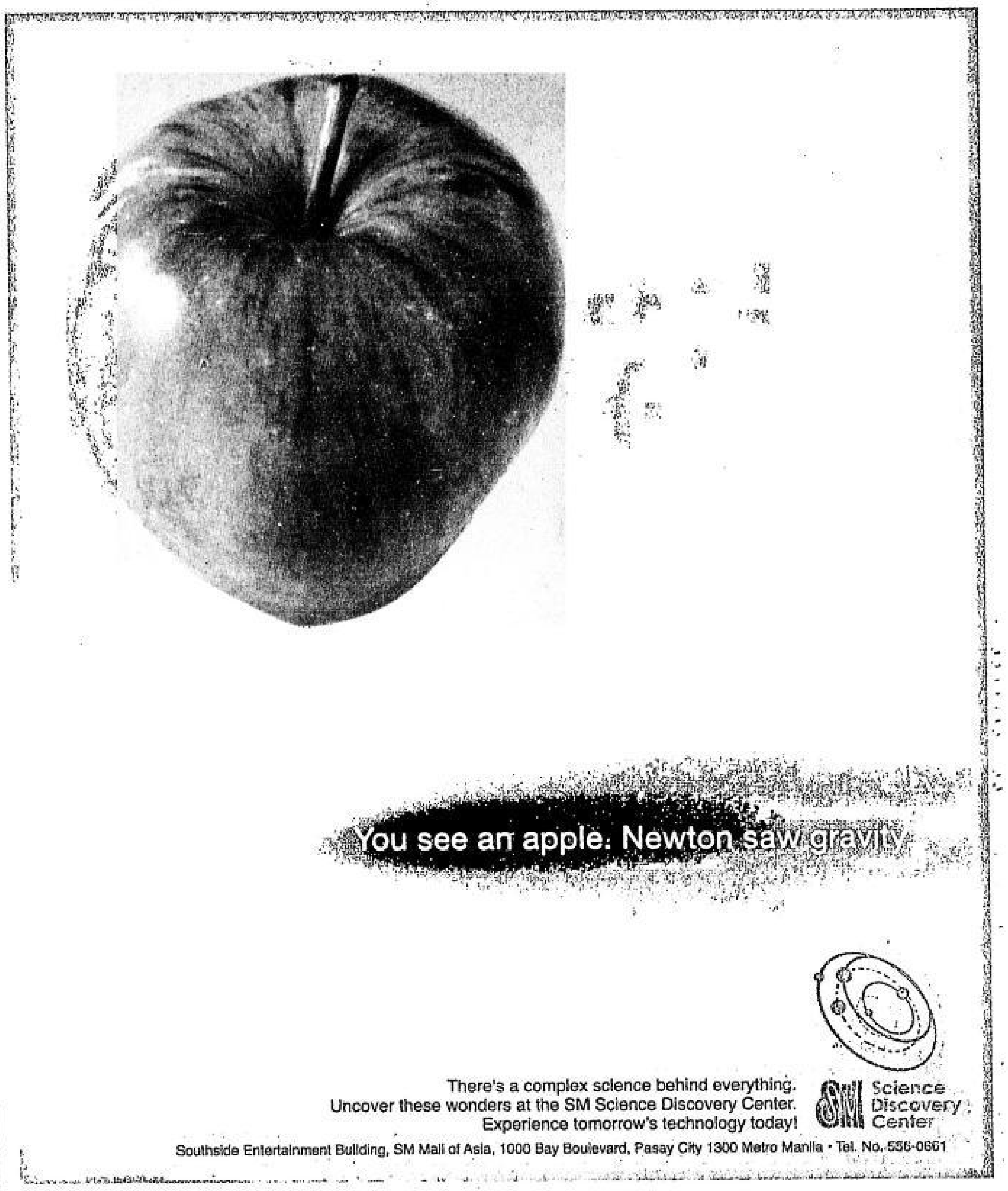

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Holiday splendor

EDDIE BADDEO UNVEILS A BRAND new couture collection for the holidays. The eclectic collection infuses classic Grecian silhouettes with raw Japanese touches.

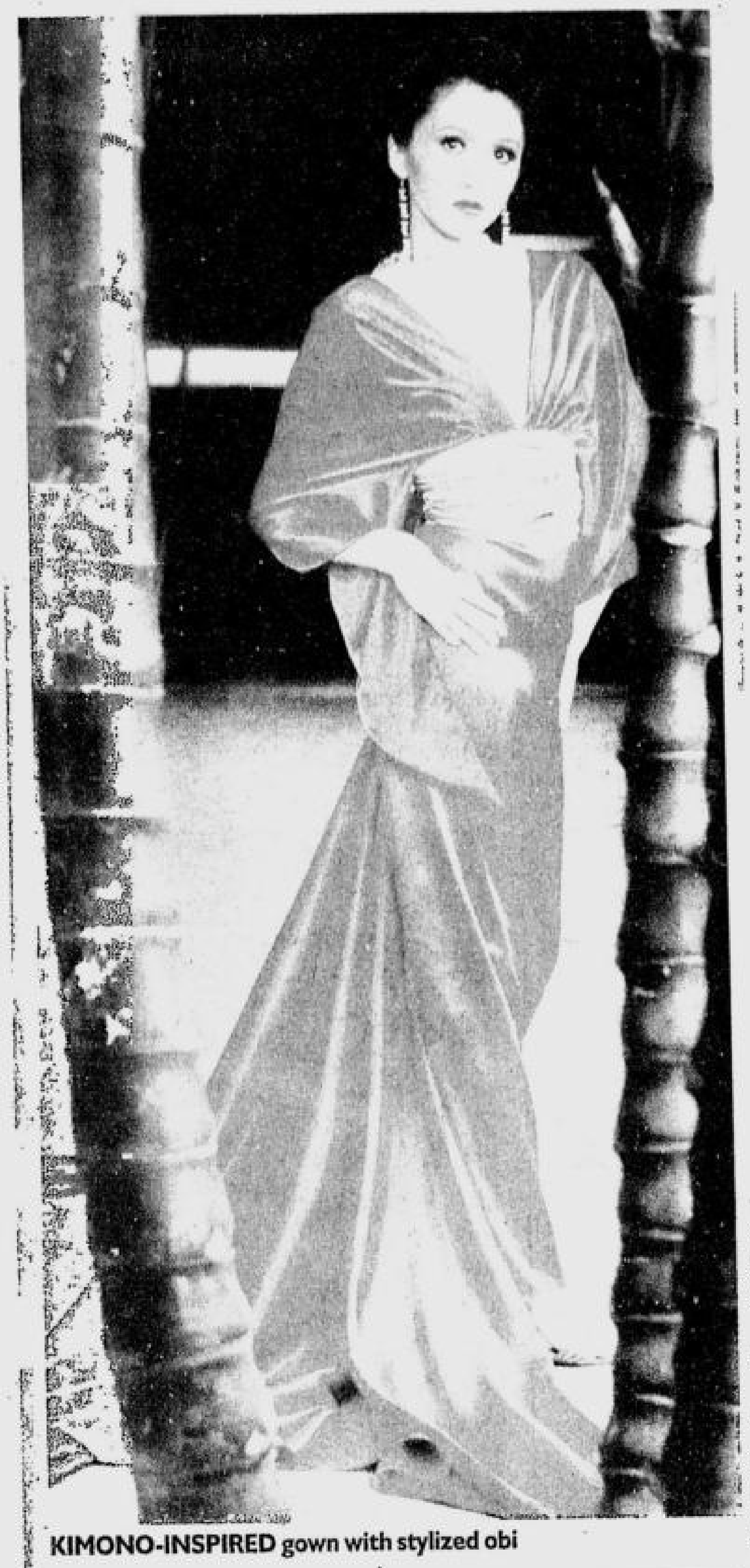
Baddeo's latest collection offers clothes marked by versatility and functionality. The designer employs jewel-colored, stretch satin fabrics to conjure sexy, long-tail gowns with Oriental waist accents. Draping is given a twist with sensual neckline variations such as beauté, cowl neck, high draping and scoop.

Baddeo says the rationale behind his latest holiday collection is simple—to open the splendor of couture to women from all walks of life.

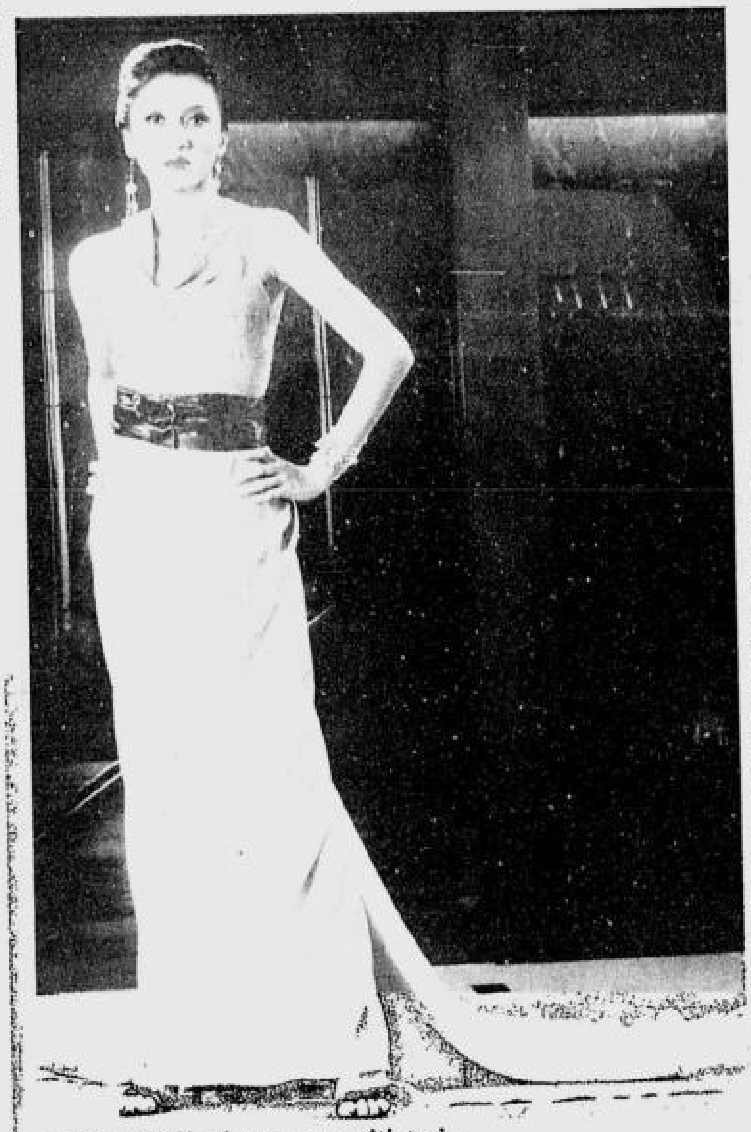
Our special thanks to Sanctuario Spa and Wellness Center and Riserva Italian resto bar, 30 Scout Ave, South Traingle, Quezon City.

Baddeo's atelier is at 63 West Ave., Quezon City. Call 3715843.

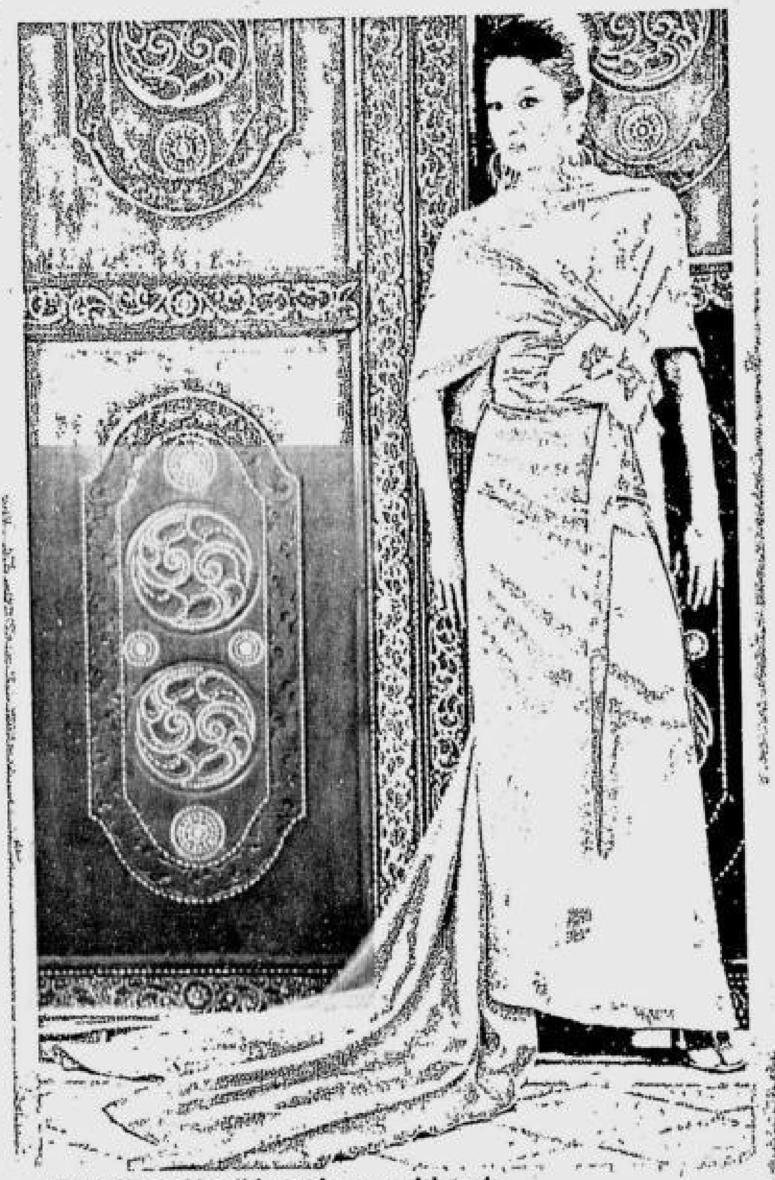
Photography Manuel Generoso
Styling Eric Maningat
Director Raymond Villanueva
Model JC Napoles



KIMONO-INSPIRED gown with stylized obi



COWL-NECK column gown with train



DRAPED and beribboned gown with train

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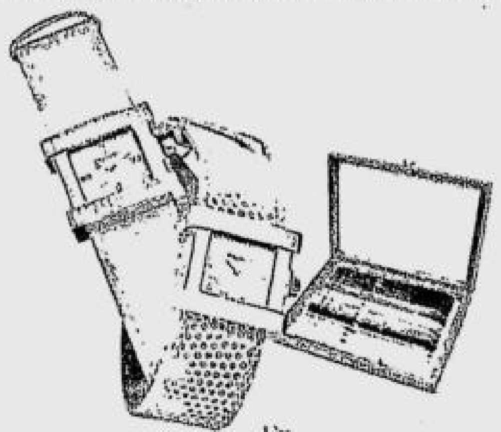

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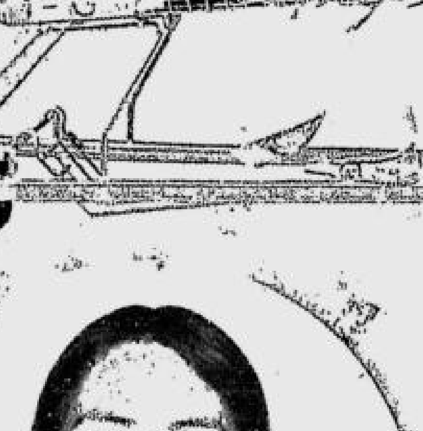

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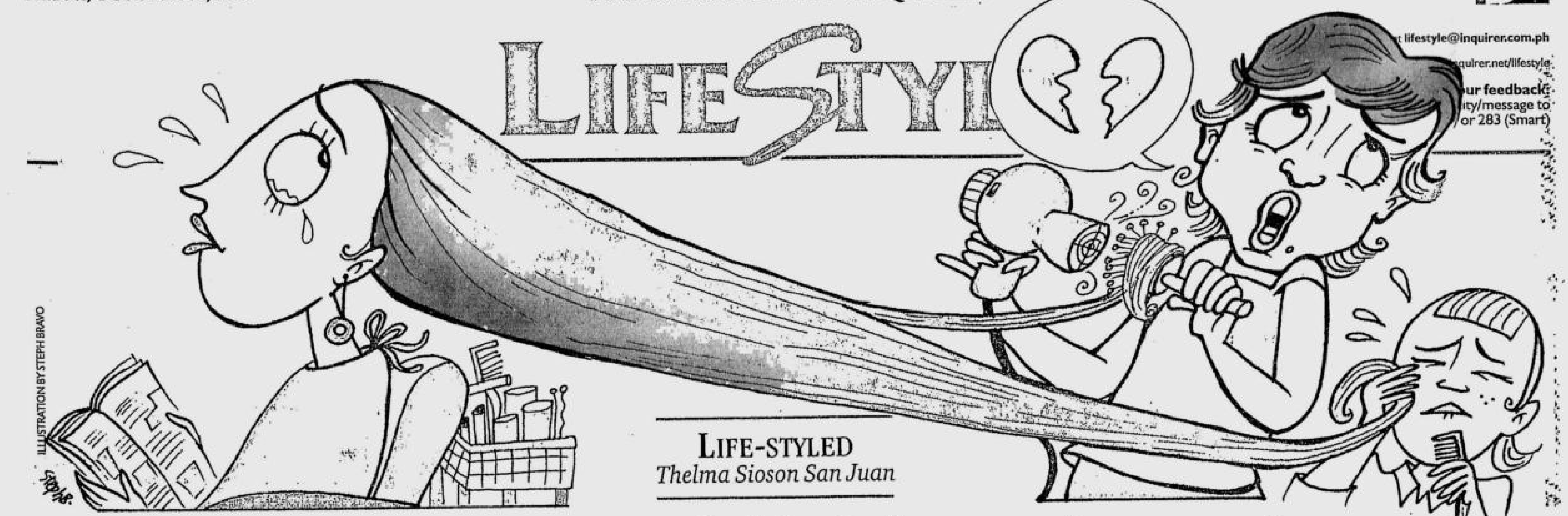


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

Behind many a successful hairdresser is a cruel parent

A reality show features the travails of struggling hair-stylists

ONE RECENT SATURDAY afternoon, as it rained buckets outside, I was sweating before the TV lights in **Ricky Reyes'** TV studio (yes, he has one).

"Mother Ricky's" invite was intriguing enough to abandon the weekend tennis for, as judge, we'd be interviewing 11 hairdressers from all over the country vying in the first TV reality show of the beauty industry called "Hair Diva," aired every Sunday on QTV.

Sometimes spending time with the hair industry titan is like going on a jungle safari—you don't know what to expect.

That afternoon we felt as if we were cast in a *teleserye*—or at least a front-seat spectator to one—featuring the lives of 11 gays, women and men (note the order) with incredibly dramatic lives.

At the end of that day I had confirmed what I suspected all along: behind a successful gay hairdresser is either an unloving, if not cruel, parent (usually father) or a self-sacrificing one. Usually it's the former. Always, the drive of the hairdresser to succeed, earn well and prove himself is to win the approval of the father or to please and support the parent.

One contestant recalled the day in his childhood his mother bought him his first pair of slippers. That night his parents had a violent fight. The next morning upon waking up, he discovered his mother was gone, and so was his new pair of *chinelas*. He hadn't seen her until recently.

Another spoke of how he strove to earn his first buck so he could give it to his older brother who had sworn him off just because he was gay. In time he was able to buy his family's acceptance of him. Sad, really.

One after the other, the sad story came, but of course, that was the show's format. But nonetheless, beneath the TV drama, it wasn't hard to see a gay's search for self-identity and social acceptance—in fact, his family's acceptance—is what drives him to succeed and build his parlor into a thriving business.

Come to think of it, this was the underlying story of Ricky's path to his multimillion-peso business empire. They're 10 in the family; he was the outcast because he was gay so he suffered the brunt of his father's cruelty, if not his brothers'.

In the end, after he made his millions, he had to pay off his father to leave him and his suffering mother alone. Ricky's love for his mother is a story unto itself—a devotion so fierce to this day that she is in her twilight years.

One episode I remember of him was the day he stood before his dad's coffin, many years ago, and muttered with regret, more than grief: "*Sayang*, you and I could have been friends."

Values-oriented

Indeed while "Hair Diva" seems hilarious, if not ridiculous, and show biz-zy, in its core is an admirable sense of values. "I want to look for struggling hairdressers out there, to know their story and to help them start. Of course, they must work hard."

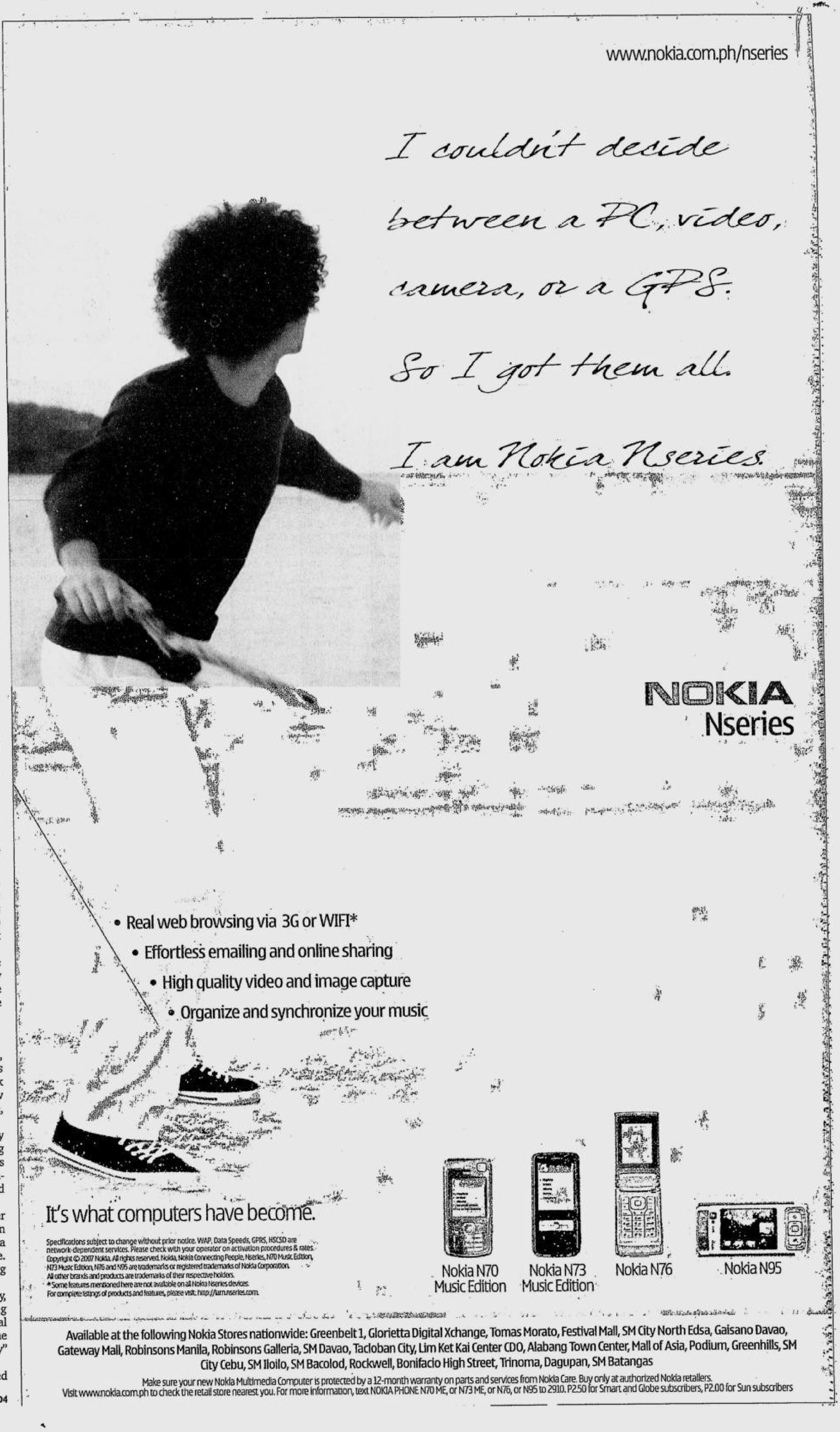
Ricky sees this search—for the "next Ricky Reyes—as his legacy. It's his way of giving these struggling ones the right breaks—his way of paying back to the incoming generation, for the big fortune and success he's had in life.

The contestants were chosen from all over the country. The winner will have his own six-seat salon, a start-up capital, lease for a business space and not to mention, the fame. Certainly not a bad start in the hairdressing business.

Now that he's on top of the industry, Ricky's moves have all been about paying back and leaving a lasting legacy. His social projects are well known-from the skills—building "Isang gunting, Isang suklay" to the children's cancer ward at PGH.

Not known to many, he has also adopted

BEHIND/ D4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ROBERT Tan, Don Beltran Domecq, Reymundo and Virginia Tan, and Oliver Lee

ANGEL Lebrero, Pepe Ruiz, Manny Concio, Joey Mendoza and Gidget Aguinaldo

LINDA Roque, Cecilia Toledo, Odette Dejos and Rio Repalda

'La vida dulce' in Jerez, Spain

ROSELYN and Alex Roleda

HELEN Sy and Ana Dy

ROMY Villasenor, Domecq, Rio Repalda, Marilen Mendoza

RODNEY and Randy Riteza with Glen Guzman

IT WAS ONLY SOME YEARS AGO THAT I was in Jerez, Spain, with other columnists and lifestyle editors, and we were beautifully hosted by that gentleman, **Don Beltran Domecq**, for five glorious, unforgettable days.

So it was no surprise that Maxxium Philippines, according to it brilliant general manager, **Joey Mendoza**, should recognize top Fundador distributors by sending a 40-strong contingent to Spain.

"The trip was organized so that our top distributors could experience the history behind the Fundador brand. Their itinerary includes stops at the different bodegas for private tours and brandy tasting," Mendoza said.

"It is the first time that Fundador and Maxxium Philippines would give such a recognition to the distributors."

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Aprés a stop at Madrid for a day, the group continued on to sunny, beautiful Jerez. Upon arrival, they were treated to refreshing cocktails at the eye-catching Villa Bristol. The courtyard was covered with luscious grapevines that served as a wonderful canopy during daytime, while the guests sipped their drinks and marveled at the breathtaking view of the sunset amid the awesome rolling hills and vineyards of Jerez, dahlings.

The guests were then warmly welcomed by no less than Don Beltran Domecq, scion of the first brandy-makers of Spain, who looked absolutely dashing in his barong Tagalog, which he wore so proudly, *palanggas*.

The next day, after a good night's rest, the guests were treated to their first typical Andalusian breakfast (which, believe me, was incredible) at Castillo Macharnudo, where Señor Domecq thoroughly explained the process of planting the grapes.

The yummy meal was perfect to jump-start a day of exploring Jerez.

Grand tour

From there, the delegates were given a grand tour of the awesome Fundador Pedro Domecq bodegas. Maxxium, together with Fundador, gave the Filipino distributors the opportunity to learn and appreciate the passion and dedication behind every drop.

Point of great interest was one of the bodegas, which housed the tasting glass used by the King to toast with wine from the Macharnudo, no less.

Manny Concio of Maxxium was really excited. "It was a learning experience to see how meticulous every oak barrel is arranged accordingly to aging," he said.

The delegation was given a glimpse of history through the Oak Barrel Hall that housed barrels signed by dignitaries, royalty and world leaders from both old and contemporary history. **Loloy** and **Odette Dejos** of Myserv International, said it was a great privilege signing the barrels which immortalized their visit to Fundador.

True to the hospitality of Fundador, a formal dinner reception and awarding ceremony at the Domecq Palace took place. This mind-boggling Palace built in 1773 by the Marquis of Montana, was acquired by **Don Juan Pedro Domecq Lembeye** in 1855, for a little over half a million *reales de vellon*.

The palace became home to generations of the Domecq familia. Guests of the Domecq's never fail to be amazed at the grand architecture of this palace, which showed Andalusian nobility.

The life-size mirrors hanging in the hallway and the rich collection of tapestry and oil paintings, would leave one breathless. The balcony gives a commanding view of the grand plaza.

Awards

Each delegate was personally welcomed by Bodegas de Jerez GM, el simpatico **Angel Lebrero**. After the gastronomic dinner, the awarding ceremony took place. It was a tribute to the delegates' well-deserved effort in making Fundador the No. 1 imported brandy in the Philippines.

Mendoza laughingly recounted the look of surprise on the delegates' faces when the awards were given. "For them, the trip was reward enough," he said.

The Distributor of the Year Award went to MyServ International Inc., headed by **Cres Toledo**. The "champions" were welcomed to the "100-percent club" along with Crown Traders, Aries Distributors, Rodsy Marketing and Titanium Supply Chain.

Of the 15 companies represented, MyServ International Inc. and Upnorth Distribution Center Corp. were proclaimed Luzon's grand champions.

Visayas/Mindanao champions were Crown Traders, Rosskad Marketing and Romark Sales Inc.

Domecq never fails to tell all the super interesting stories of Fundador's history. One story was how Fundador Brandy was accidentally discovered by Pedro Domecq and how doctor **Alexander Fleming**, discoverer of penicillin, visited Domecq in 1948 and said: "I have discovered the fungus to cure sick people, but you have another product that revives the dead."

One cannot be in Jerez without doing the breathtaking Flamenco. Each dance movement kept the audience in awe, while the sounds of clapping hands, guitars, rhythmic tapping on the wooden floors, and hypnotic songs completely captured the Jerez charm.

At the end of the performance, the dancers pulled the delegates to the stage to dance along, while others enjoyed the sight and sound, till way past Cinderella's bedtime.

After a day of touring, the delegates were fetched by attired horses and carriages, for the horse dressage show, which is native to Jerez. The women especially felt like *noblezas* as they rode the colorful carriage.

Arthur and **Linda Roque** of Romark Sales excitedly took loads of photos of the elegant-mannered horses.

Bullfight

Next stop was the Bull Museum, which housed sculptures of bulls and bullfights.

Later, the entire delegation was jetted to Madrid to experience Spain's national sport. It was a heart-stopping experience!

Oliver Lee of Princeton Marketing said: "The bull arena itself is an architectural marvel. The movement of the matador was an adrenaline rush as tons of spectators cheered each of the matador's flip of the capote to lure the bull."

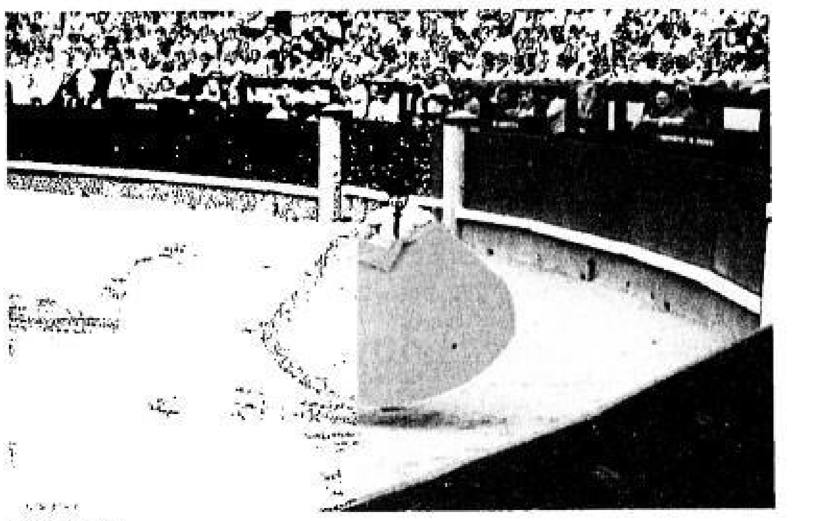
Jimmy Dulla of Roskad marketing said: "Watching that whole setting of bulls, aspiring matadors, colorful ribbons and sounds of horses was a sight straight out of a movie!"

Leonisa Caw Li of New Solid Wines was so happy with the entire trip. "Despite the fact we were not able to receive any special distinction during the awarding ceremony, I feel like a winner," she said. "I plan to continue pushing Fundador as my product and hope I can be able to join the next trips." So do I, for that matter, dahlings.

The world-renowned Bodegas Fundador are the oldest and most prestigious in Jerez, their foundation dating back to 1730.

Fundador has become a company that, while respecting the values of tradition, is at the head of technological innovation and introduction of systems that assure and guarantee quality products. The Bodegas belong to the Beam Global Spirit and Wine group, an affiliate of Maxxium Philippines.

Señoras y señores, viva Fundador! *Viva* Maxxium Filipinos!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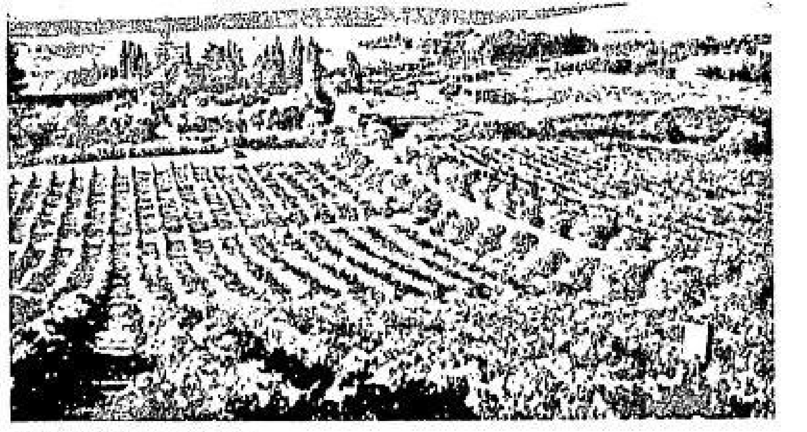
ROLLING hills of Jerez

HENRY and Elizabeth Vasig

RODRIGO and Helen Sy

EUGENIA Herrera

THERESA Aumesquet

LYDIA Dulla

FLAMENCO dancers

THE PHILIPPINE delegates on the grand staircase of the palace

MAXXIUM awards the Philippines' top Fundador distributor MyServ International

GLUTA WHITE & FIRM

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Amidst the sea of skin whitening products, **Gluta White & Firm** redefines the face of skin whitening and firming, transforming the shape of what face and body care can be.

Over the years, the beauty industry has been flogged with multitudes of skin care products, ranging from high-end niche treatments to budget skin whitening solutions. Despite the differences in brand names and ingredients, all profess to deliver the desirable result you have always wanted --- fairer, whiter skin. That is, until you thought that it wouldn't hurt a bit to also have firmer, well-sculpted skin.

Now, Derm Pharma Inc., the manufacturing maverick that revolutionized the local beauty industry area with pioneering products such as Regroe, Derm A and Skintel, crosses the boundaries of conventional whitening skincare with **Gluta White & Firm.** An intensive skin whitening and firming system, **Gluta White & Firm** empowers your skin to look fairer and more contoured --- faster than ever, - using the world's most effective skin whitener, Glutathione.

Discover the Beauty of Whiter, Fairer Skin.

Gluta White & Firm's Active Whitening and Slimming Complex, a potent synthesis of Glutathione, L-Carnitine, Lipofirm and Clair Blanche, revitalizes your skin, giving it a supple, refashioned and well-toned look. Glutathione, one of its active components and the world's most effective skin whitener, is clinically proven to help inhibit melanin formation and production and reverse melanin metabolism, turning dark pigmentations into light pigmentations. With a distinctive synthesis of 7 effective ingredients recognized to inhibit melanin production, **Gluta White & Firm** lightens skin in just 2 weeks while impeding the development and appearance of freckles and age spots. A gentle sun protection yields a thorough buffer from the damaging effects of the sun.

Above and beyond its whitening attributes, **Gluta White & Firm's** L-Carnitine and Lipofirm components effectively aid in boosting a slimmer, firmer veneer. L-Carnitine, a naturally occurring element found in most cells of the body, helps in fat metabolism and aids in promoting certain enzymes vital in the metabolism of sugars, starches and other carbohydrates. Lipofirm, on the other hand, aids in the reduction of adipose fat (the fat found in tissue just beneath the skin) and has firming, slimming and draining effects.

REDEFINE THE FACE OF BEAUTY:

Going Beyond Skin Whitening

Gluta White & Firm bares the sheer beauty of your skin, progressively and successfully. With the Active Whitening and Slimming Complex, **Gluta White & Firm** is the most potent alternative among whitening products.

Gluta White & Firm redefines skin whitening by going beyond mere lightening of skin tone but working within and on the skin's surface to fight the lack of resilience and skin vitality due to the loss of collagen. More than its skin whitening attributes, **Gluta White & Firm's** blend works with synergy to give you that natural, redefined and renewed look... fairer, firmer, sexier you. Skin whitening and firming fashion has never been made easier!

Gluta White & Firm is available in all leading department and drug stores nationwide. For more information about **Gluta White & Firm, call 817-3303.**

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Discover the beauty of whiter, firmer skin.

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An intensive skin whitening and firming system created to redefine the shape of what face and body care can be.

Gluta White & Firm delivers the premier strength of the world's most effective skin whitener. Glutathione blended with L-Carnitine, Lipofirm and Clair Blanche, revitalizes your skin, exposing the most desirable radiance and sculpted look.

Be Desired. Be White. Be Firm.

Gluta White & Firm also comes in: **Soap, Lotion** and **Oral Capsules**

GOINGS ON

Manila FAME International presents 48th edition

THE 48TH EDITION OF MANILA FAME International will be held Oct. 17-20. The event will be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila, the neighboring Philippine Trade Training Center, and free-standing pavilions. Organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, the export promotions arm of the Department of Trade and Industry, it will showcase new design ideas by local craftsmen and artisans. Visit www.manilafame.com or e-mail manilafame@citem.com.ph.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITY. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and the Brick Road present "Wild & Wacky Halloween," a trick-or-treat activity for children 12 years old and below on Oct. 27. To join, purchase a pumpkin pail at Sta. Lucia East Department Store or Planet Toys and register at the mall's Customer Service Booth located on the ground level Phase III by presenting your receipt. Registration is until Oct. 25. First 400 children will be accommodated. Each kid will get a ticket that entitles him/her and a companion to enter the Function Hall for the show and join the costume contest. To join the Scary Evolution Costume Contest, get an entry form at the Ad & Promo Department and attach a P300 single or accumulated purchase receipt from Sta. Lucia dated Sept. 20-Oct. 24. Call 6815401 local 109.

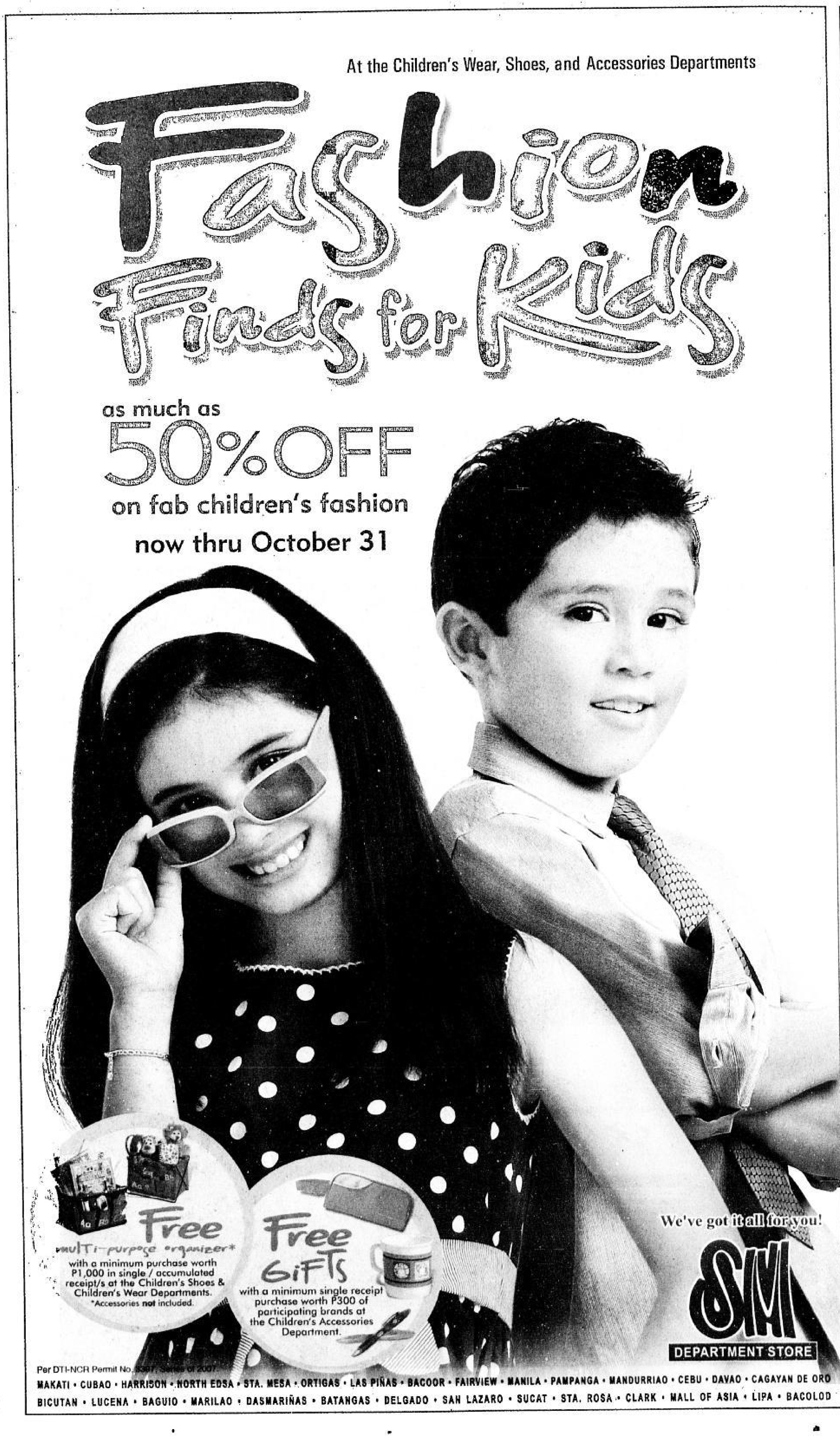
A GEM OF A PROMO. This October, diamonds will shimmer with Softee's Sparkling Spree Promo. Women get a chance to get one of 10 Eternity Diamond Collections from especially marked boxes or travel packs of Softee Facial Tissues. A collection includes a 16-inch 14K Italian white-gold necklace with a diamond-encrusted 14K setting pendant paired with a diamond-encrusted 14K white-gold ring. Promo is until Nov. 30.

ACTIVITY. Kids take center stage this October at Festival Supermall in Filicity, Alabang City as it holds "Tricks, Treats and Toddlers." The grand finals of "Magic Idol 2007 Season 7" on Oct. 19 will be presented by the Magicians Foundation Inc. While Mommy Academy holds its kid adventure series "Little Kitchen" on Oct. 20 at the Carousel Court. Oct. 21 is "Internationalism Day" and will feature Southville International School students at the Carousel Court. The annual Halloween costume competition "Hallowee" will be held Oct. 31, also at the Carousel Court. Mall hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 8503514 or visit www.festivalsupermall. com.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY. The Philippine Association for Teacher Education (PAFTE) will hold its 36th annual assembly on Oct. 23-31. The PAFTE assembly includes The National Convention, Oct. 23-25 at the Grand Regal Hotel, Lanang, Davao City, and a study tour to Australia on Oct. 26-31. Call 7356861 or 7359662.

FESTIVAL. Enchanted Kingdom will host the "1st Junior Chefs Festival," Oct. 13, 2-6 p.m. at Enchanted Kingdom's Launchtime Restaurant. The festival will showcase four new recipes of hotdog dishes for kids 7-12 years old. Visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE. Museo Pambata's line of Christmas cards is now available. Sold to help fund its Mobile Library Program, this year's line features selected cards from the 1997-2006 collections and one new design in packs of 10. The cards are available at the Museo Pambata Gift shop on Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila. For company orders (minimum of 500), Museo Pambata can print a short message and company logo (one color) at no extra cost. Call 5231797-98; e-mail mrktng@museopambata.org; or visit www.museopambata.org.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BROOKE Astor, New York's high-society doyenne

Behind many a successful hairdresser is a cruel parent

From page D1

the "Japayuki" transsexuals who had been displaced from Japan, turned their exceptional skill for beautifying themselves into a beneficial task, by hiring them as receptionists in his salons.

And, given how well they're made over, so far they've kept the salon clients wanting for more salon services. Not only is it helping his salon business, he's also given these gays, who've reached the end of the line, a new livelihood opportunity. This business idea must be unique in the world.

I asked him once why, unlike the others, he doesn't have a franchise chain, given his popular branding, and have thousands of salons in the country. Indeed, why isn't he cashing in on it as much as he can?

"*Ineng*," he said, spoken like the mother he believes he is, "*tatlong beses lang ako kumain sa isang araw*." That's how he puts his way of fighting off greed, his state of self-contentment.

Indeed, in the end, the real luxury—the genuine wealth—is one's feeling of self-contentment.

Brooke Astor

Interestingly, his story is not far off, would you believe, from the lessons left by New York's high society doyenne, **Brooke Astor**, the icon of the 20th century. Brooke died two months ago, at 105 years old, one of America's wealthiest women.

Familiar with the tag "Manila's 400" or "New York's 400"? It turned out that metaphor came about because the ancestor—the aunt—of Brooke's husband Vincent, Caroline Astor, got famous for her balls and parties in the late 19th century. And her ballroom in her New York mansion could fit only 400, all of New York's aristocracy. If you were not in her ballroom, you weren't part of New York's 400.

Vincent Astor was the son of **John Jacob Astor**, the man who became known to future generations because he was the titan who sank with the Titanic.

Brooke inherited the Astors' fortune and presided over the $67-million-endowed Vincent Astor Foundation, which helped turn New York into the cosmopolitan city that it is. Brooke devoted the last part of her life using that money to build New York—from the Public Library, to Central Park, to the tenement homes.

Her famous line was: "Money is like manure, you must distribute it."

FASHION BUZZ

Hot, haute, hot news!

READY, set, shop! Get 50-percent off on current-season Italian fashion goodies in Linea Italia's anniversary sale.

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'Grazie!'

AS A WAY OF SAYING "GRAZIE" (thank you) for 25 years of successful fashion retailing, the Linea Italia Group has whipped up an outrageously hot anniversary sale.

Go wild over the latest collections from Italy, offered at 50-percent off in all of Linea Italia's 10 multi-brand stores in Metro Manila and Cebu. The offer is good while supplies last. Only current and new-season merchandise are on sale.

Get hold of classic top-of-the-line brands and the hottest just-off-the-catwalk goodies from new Italian labels. Be it a flirty top, a great pair of jeans, an elegant dress or chic shoes and bags, this anniversary sale is the perfect time to update your wardrobe.

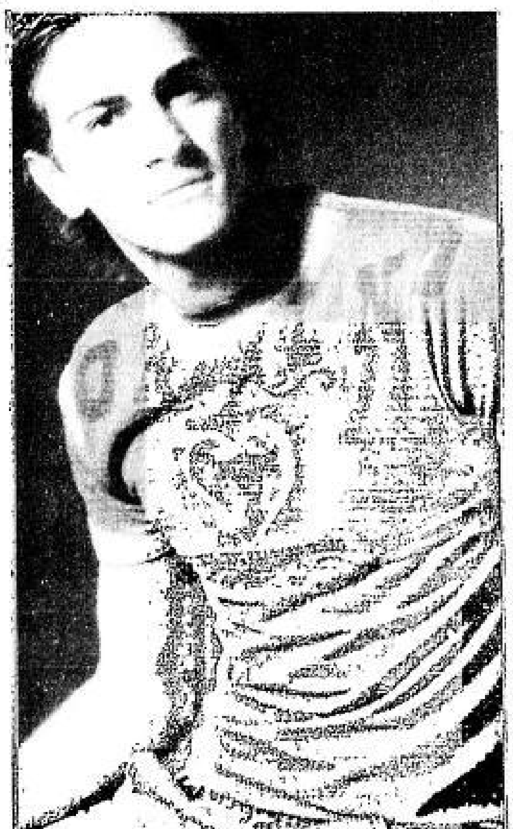
Choose from the most coveted design ideas and the modern, edgy styles of popular labels like Sandro Ferrone, Online, Cerruti, L'Altra Moda, Roberto Cavalli, Versace Jeans Couture, Alegria, Henry Cotton's, Pinko, Zinco, Pietrogrande, Byblos, Alysi, Messori, Fiume, Nanibon, Havana & Co., Alcott, Divina and Upstar, among others.

Also, check out fresh Italian labels making their debut in the country, such as Sexy Woman, Angel Devil and Martin Box with its line of stylish coats and dresses.

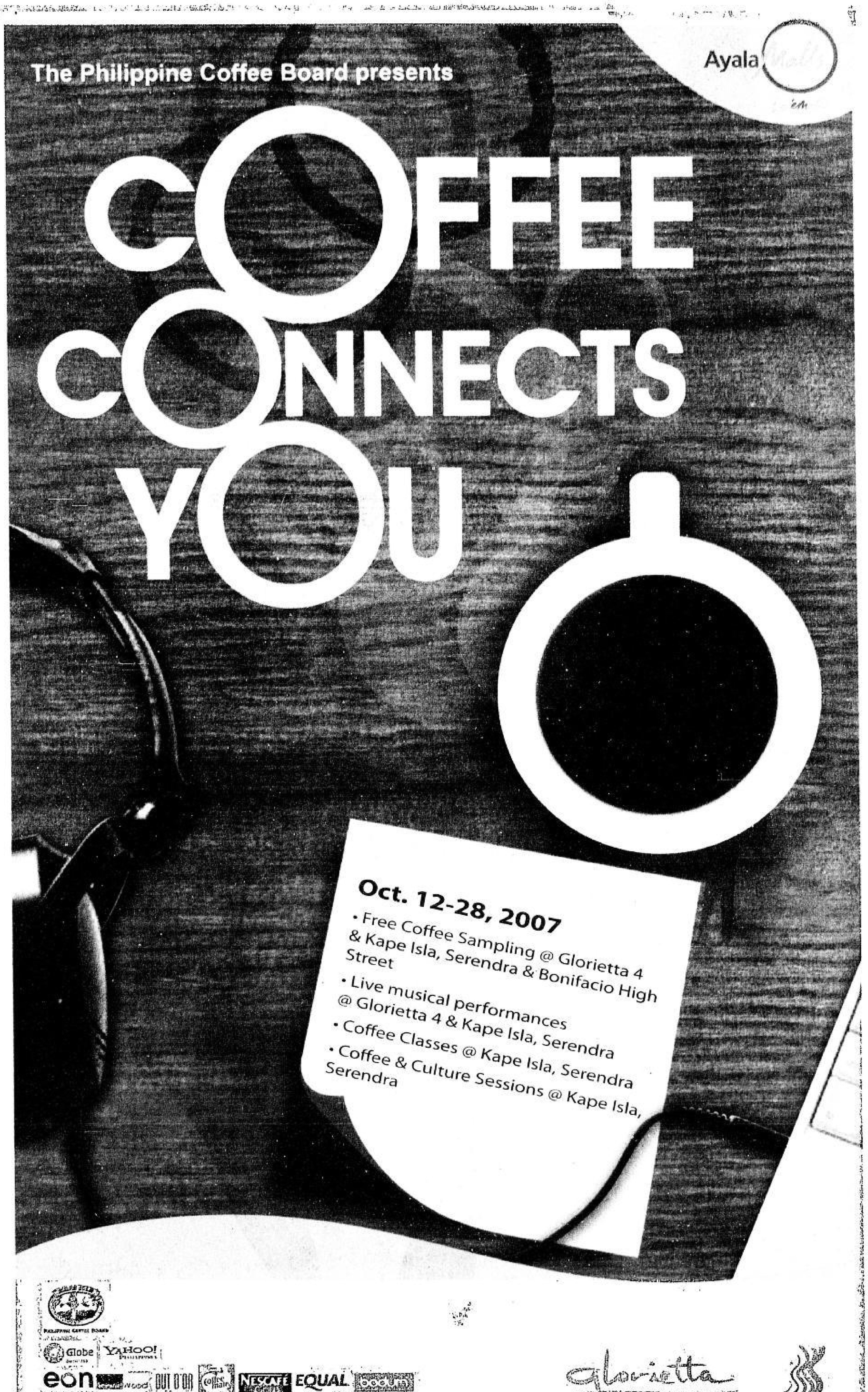
Linea Italia continues to pursue its commitment to make true Italian fashion easily accessible to everyone. Its mantra is fashion freedom that embraces individuality, creativity and daring. Indeed, individuals who are cosmopolitan, adventurous, who work hard and know how to reward themselves, should not miss this grand sale.

"We are happy to bring into the country the most-sought-after as well as upcoming Italian labels, enabling the local market to be updated with what's hot in the world's fashion capitals. Because Linea Italia is a multi-brand store concept, we offer not just one, but many brands, to choose from," says the company's top honcho, Freddy Panicucci.

Check out Linea Italia's anniversary sale at 6750; SM Megamall; Ayala Center Cebu); Linea Uomo (Parksquare, SM Megamall, Ayala Center Cebu); Prima Linea (Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center Cebu); Corso Marconi (Marconi Street, Makati); and Viva (SM Cebu).



CHECK out cool duds for men, too!



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Tickling your fashion fancy

Get set for some guilt-free shopping at the Tickled Pink benefit bazaar

PICTURE THIS, BAGS loaded with ultra-special finds that you won't easily find in your usual shopping haunts. Now wouldn't that be a treat? That's not all. The best part about this ideal scenario is that shopping is virtually guilt-free.

Yes, you heard it right. Get ready to swipe those credit cards and spend your hard-earned buck because the Tickled Pink benefit bazaar is back—and it's bigger and better than ever.

Set on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 19 and 20, 10 a.m.-10 p.m, at the Rockwell Tent, Makati City, the benefit bazaar is a project of the ICanServe Foundation, an advocacy group that empowers women with breast cancer and cancer-related information. It provides patients with free books, audio and video materials, special services like counseling, an online support group, early breast-cancer screening programs, forums big and small and helps indigent women on cancer treatments.

Tickled Pink isn't your everyday bazaar, not just because a percentage of sales will help fund the advocacy's projects, but because it will showcase rarely seen items in the Philippine market. These are mostly products for export, ranging from fashion wear and accessories, menswear, children's clothing and toys, home accessories, gifts, plus a wide array of food choices.

Specially designed items from the ICanServe foundation are also up for grabs such as cancer-awareness bands, Christmas cards, bags and a kiddy line by Big and Small.

Bianca Araneta, who has relatives who bravely survived the big C and a grandmother who died of breast cancer, is a big supporter of the advocacy. She's the event's signature model. Meanwhile, Joseph Claravall conceptualized and styled a New Age Zen look rendered in black and pink—the global breast-cancer colors.

Fashion fiends can look forward to the following: top crowd-drawer Camille Genuino's C + G designer clothing, Eva Abesamis and her Marie Antoinette inspired tops, V-Clothing and La Copa items, accessory exporters Avatar, Legacy Crafts, Le Font and Silverbox's must-have accessories, to name a few.

Bettina Osmeña, chairman for the Fund Raising Committee of the ICanServe foundation and the Tickled Pink event, will also

OFF white dress with navy blue accents by La Copa

Photography
Jeffrey Sonora / IIP Photography Studio
Styling Ton Lao
Model
Darlene Anderson of Victo Rio
Makeup Pia Reyes
Canine model
Tribo of White Mallow's Bichon Frise's

NAVY dress with gold details by La Copa; necklace and bracelet from Avatar; black flat shoes with gold details by Butterflies in my Closet

HANDMADE neckpiece by Avatar

LIGHT blue nylon tank top and black nylon pants by Jamoire; black flats by Butterflies in my Closet

offer her own line of jewelry for export, Bijux. And The Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines will pool their talent to come up with designs catering to male and female customers.

There's a little something for everyone—kids, nursing moms, art lovers, spaholics, and even dogs included. Foodies can also enjoy offerings from Le Soufflé, the anchor food vendor for Tickled Pink, and also savor Coffee Alamid.

The event was organized by Bettina Osmeña, chairman for the fund-raising committee, ICanServe volunteers and sisters Ria Romero and Ina Vergel de Dios plus Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, president of ICanServe. It was also made possible by Pag-ibig, Pagcor, Lifestyle Network, Visions Expressions, Rockwell Land, HSBC, Fruit Magic, De Original Jamaican Pattie Shop, Goody Products Philippines, Inc., 92.3X FM, 105.1 Crossover, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, PCSO. AAS

For inquiries, call 6873942, e-mail icanserve@yahoo.com or visit www.icanserve.net

NAVY and gold dress by La Copa; earrings by Bijux

WHITE lace dress by La Copa; black and white earrings and necklace by Bijux; black and white flat shoes by Butterflies in my Closet

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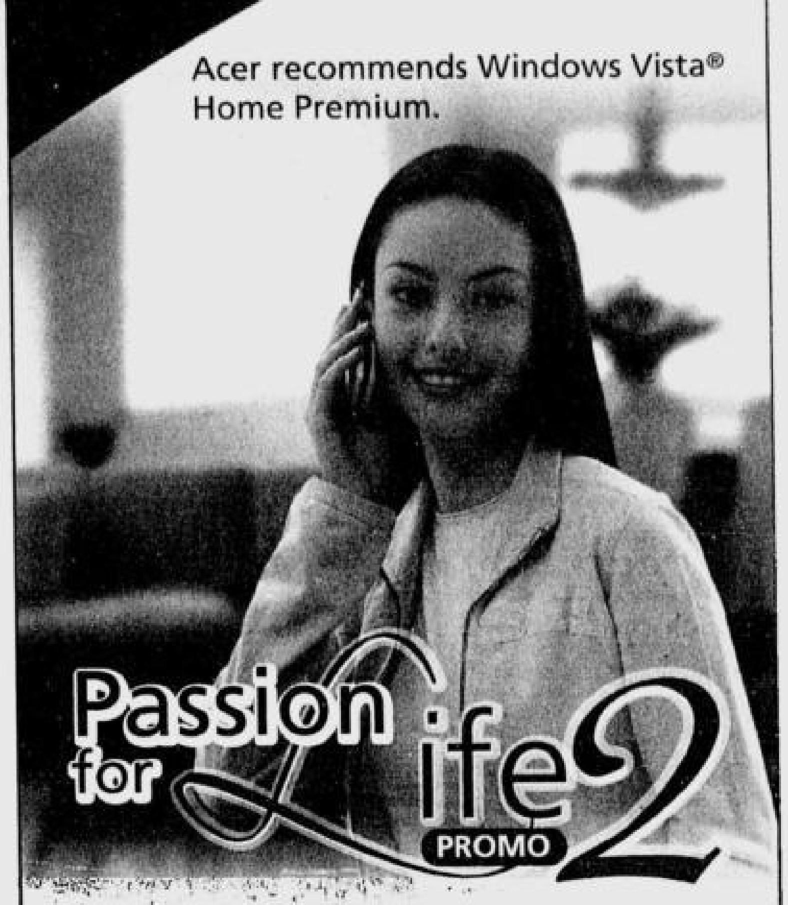

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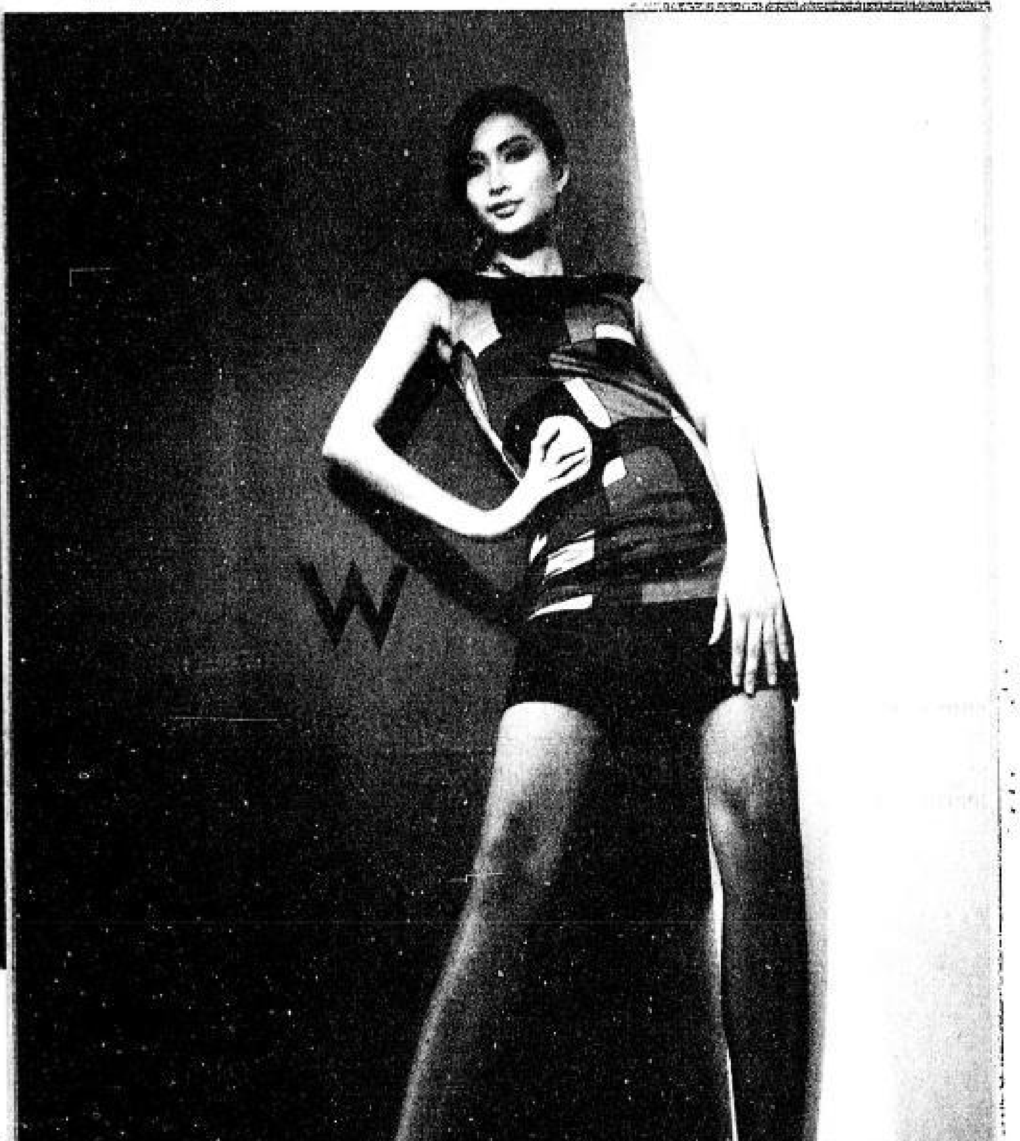
Square off
Channel Twiggy with this geometric patterned dress.

Simply chic
Go for classic and effortless style in this white and black dress.



Prints please
Relive the swinging '60s in this colorful Pucci-esque dress.

Multiples of style

Photography
Doc Marlon Pecjo
Styling Ton Lao
Model
Phoemela Barranda
Makeup Mich Lim
Fashions Promod
Shot on location
at W Tower's
Model Unit
at MC Home Depot,
the Fort

FOR A WOMAN'S WARDROBE to be exceptional, it has to have variety. It should hold everything from leisure pieces to the pièce de résistance, that special ensemble reserved for the most elegant of evenings. It also has to consist of dependable monotones and playful, vibrant items that can make a woman stand out from the oh-so-homogeneous metro crowd.

Promod, a French fashion giant, affords its customers just this kind of diversity. Fashionable options are limitless each time the brand introduces its latest collections.

Promod started out as a modest family business in France in 1975. Its first boutique was dedicated to the production and retail of very original ready-to-wear items and fashion accessories for women.

In the '90s, Promod expanded out of France and established stores in the Middle East and Russia. Its growth in Asia started in 2006 when branches opened in Shanghai and Beijing. Soon, stores were also set up in Thailand and Indonesia. The Philippines joined the list when, in 2007, a Promod branch opened in Manila. Now with over 600 outlets in over 40 countries, Promod continues to grow to satisfy its worldwide clientele.

The brand caters to modern, active and confident women who want nothing less than the best in design and quality, comfort and affordability, in items that are never too classic or too trendy.

The success of Promod comes from its design teams' resourcefulness and inexhaustible creative energy. The teams continuously search the world for design inspirations and the best clothing materials.

Meanwhile, Promod's in-house clothing design department produces around 4,000 models of ready-to-wear garments every season, making up its four main collections: leisure, casual, city wear and formal. The brand also designs accessories like fine leather articles and jewelry for more formal occasions.

The collections offer endless possibilities for mixing and matching and are determined by current fashion trends. And while Promod may produce thousands of items every season, the inventive designs create room for women to pair off the most up-to-date pieces with previous and upcoming fashion styles.

Promod is located at TriNoma Mall and Ayala Center Cebu, and is set to open in SM Cebu in November and in other locations in Manila.

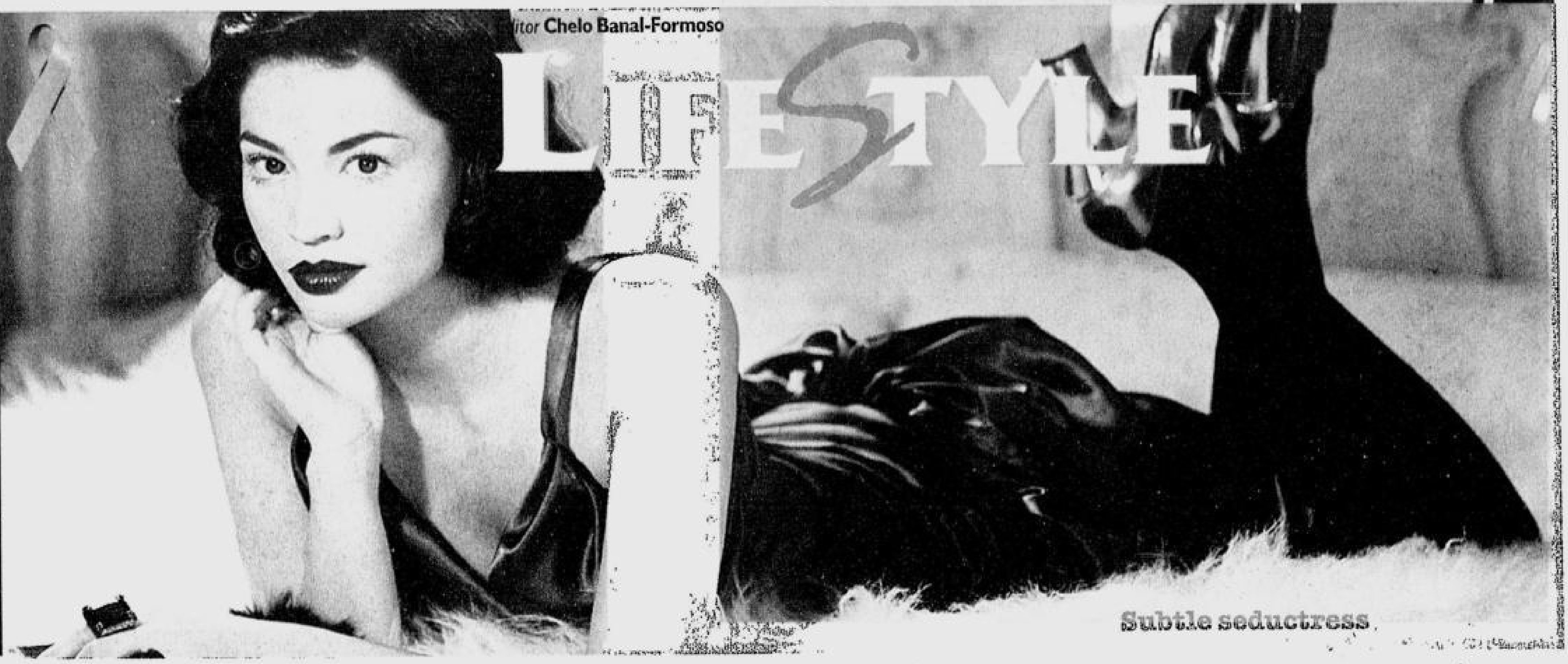
Purple passion
Don fun, psychedelic fashions with this violet bi-fabric printed tunic and pink drop earrings.

Going graphic
Take a step back into history with this graphic '60s dress.

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

LIFESTYLE

FASHION



Subtle seductress

Free spirit

Anne Curtis is the new face of Freeway, a brand known for its fun, hip and colorful clothes that come with affordable price tags

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

EXCITING NEWS FOR EVERY FAST-PACED fashionista! Freeway has undergone construction and now has a racy, fresh look. From its lustrous metallic-font sign that shines against a crisp white background to its modernized interiors—custom-made stainless sculptured modules and padded leather walls with rhinestone quilts and bright lighting—the flirty and feminine fashion label now radiates a radically cool new personality.

Freeway is known for its fun, hip and colorful clothes that come with affordable price tags. The brand has been fearless in breaking out of the box and taking chances. This time, it gives the green light to a young and relatively new designer, Mel Orlina.

Mel is the anointed designer for Freeway's latest holiday collection. Though she may be a relatively new name in the industry, Mel is no stranger to art as she is in fact the grandniece of globally renowned Filipino glass sculptor Ramon Orlina. Her journey to the fashion superhighway began with a six-year stint in advertising, where she got exposed to graphic design and styling on advertising projects here and abroad. The road eventually took her to fashion design, where she has unleashed her passion and flair for style.

Mel took different courses in DLSU College of Fashion, then strengthened her knowledge with more courses in Central Saint Martins in London. She says she designs with aesthetics and femininity in mind.

"I see to it that my creations are wearable but definitely individual. I don't make clothes that I myself can't wear. I believe the designer is always a part of the clothes she makes. I like being a girl and it shows in the clothes I make."

Her designs have evolved from deconstructed pieces to classic, well-tailored creations. She gets inspiration from anything she considers beautiful. Among her influences are Vionnet, for all those crazy folds; Coco Chanel, for her infinite femininity; Marc Jacobs, for his eye for color; and Vanessa Bruno, for her signature chic.

For her Freeway collection, Mel used the holiday-bright colors of pomegranate red, young grape, emerald green, sea teal, with touches of black, white and gray. Pleating and ruching are rendered in a more casual way as a tribute to the great Parisian designers.

With the theme "French chic," Mel drew inspiration from "Amélie" (played by Audrey Tatou) as her muse. "I can easily imagine her wearing the clothes. The person who wears this collection is a girl who likes to be pretty but is not too fussy about it.

FREE/F2

The tradition of luxury lives on...

Rustan's
SINCE 1952

Bordello beauty

Free spirit

From page F1

Glamazon

She'll probably mix it with her own clothes and style it her own way. I love Paris and all that it represents, and I want that to be reflected in the clothes."

Another head-turning headline for Freeway is its latest muse, actress Anne Curtis, who fits the label to a tee with her belief that "fashion is freedom of style."

Anne was recently named one of the country's best-dressed by a leading fashion magazine. Today, you'll see her as the new face of Freeway.

Here she shares her fashion influences and news about her projects:

Describe your personal style.

I really don't go along with any trend. My style depends on the mood I'm in. Sometimes I'll be all girly, the next classic, then all of a sudden punk or rocker chick. I also like to feel comfortable in what I'm wearing.

Do you seek advice from anyone when it comes to fashion? Do you have style influences?

I browse through magazines a lot to look at different styles. I like Mischa Barton and Audrey Hepburn in terms of fashion.

What kind of shopper are you? What's the most expensive and the cheapest thing you've bought?

I've learned not to be so impulsive nowadays. I choose the things I buy and make sure they're things I can use through the years. My most expensive purchase would be my very first Chanel bag. The cheapest—earrings worth P50! Bargain!

What are the top three things every girl should have in her closet?

Jeans, a nice white top and a black dress.

Is there anything you don't like about yourself or your body?

I wish sometimes that I were taller.

What's the best part of your job? And the worst?

The best part is it's a whole education and a never-ending learning experience. Plus I get to travel and meet new people every day. The worst part is the lack of privacy.

Have you always wanted to be an actress? If you were not an actress, what would you be?

I've always wanted to be a lawyer or a catwalk model. But now that I'm in this business, acting has become a passion, although if I wasn't an actress I'd probably be a lawyer.

What's your most memorable role or movie project?

Every role is significant to me because I give my 100 percent all the time. But of course my first will always be memorable because it was just that—my first-ever dive into the business.

What are your upcoming projects?

I'm taping for a new teleserye and shooting a new movie with Aga Muhlach.

How does it feel to be the new image model of Freeway? How has it been so far?

I'm so excited and happy to be the new model of Freeway. It's so much fun and I love all the new clothes. It's so me!

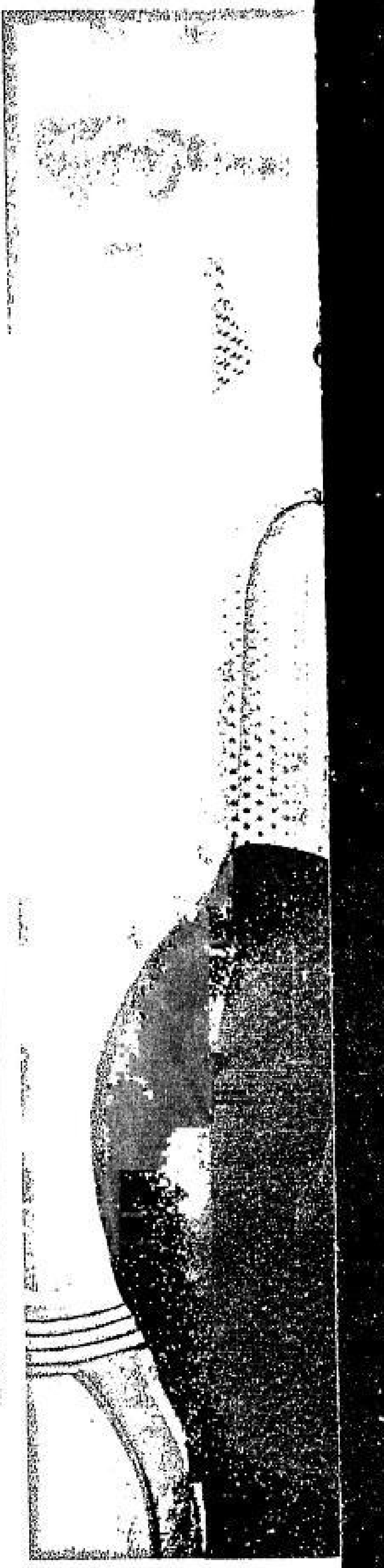
Doe-eyed ingenue

What is it about Freeway that you like? What do you think sets apart Freeway from other brands?

I love Freeway because whatever moods you might be in, it has the clothes to match them. It's different because it doesn't stick to one style; it's not too safe. The brand always changes and reinvents its clothes, and it doesn't go with the trend but with the style. And that's exactly how I am with my clothes.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

Visit Freeway outlets in Glorietta 1, SM North Edsa, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Metro East, Festival Supermall Alabang, SM Southmall, SM Super Center Sucat, SM Pampanga (Annex), Abanao Square-Baguio, Alimall-Cubao, SM Bacoor, SM Bicutan, SM Lucena, Pavillion Mall-Laguna, SM Megamall, SM Marilao, Limketkai Mall-CDO, Ayala Cebu, Alabang Town Center, Edsa Central, SM Iloilo, SM Dasmariñas, SM Fairview, Market! Market!, Chimes Mall-Davao, SM Batangas, SM San Lazaro, TriNoma. Check out www.freeway.net.ph for more details.



Fashionable flapper

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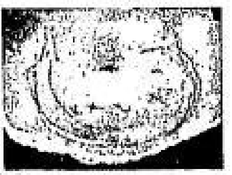
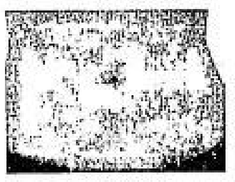


Before treatment



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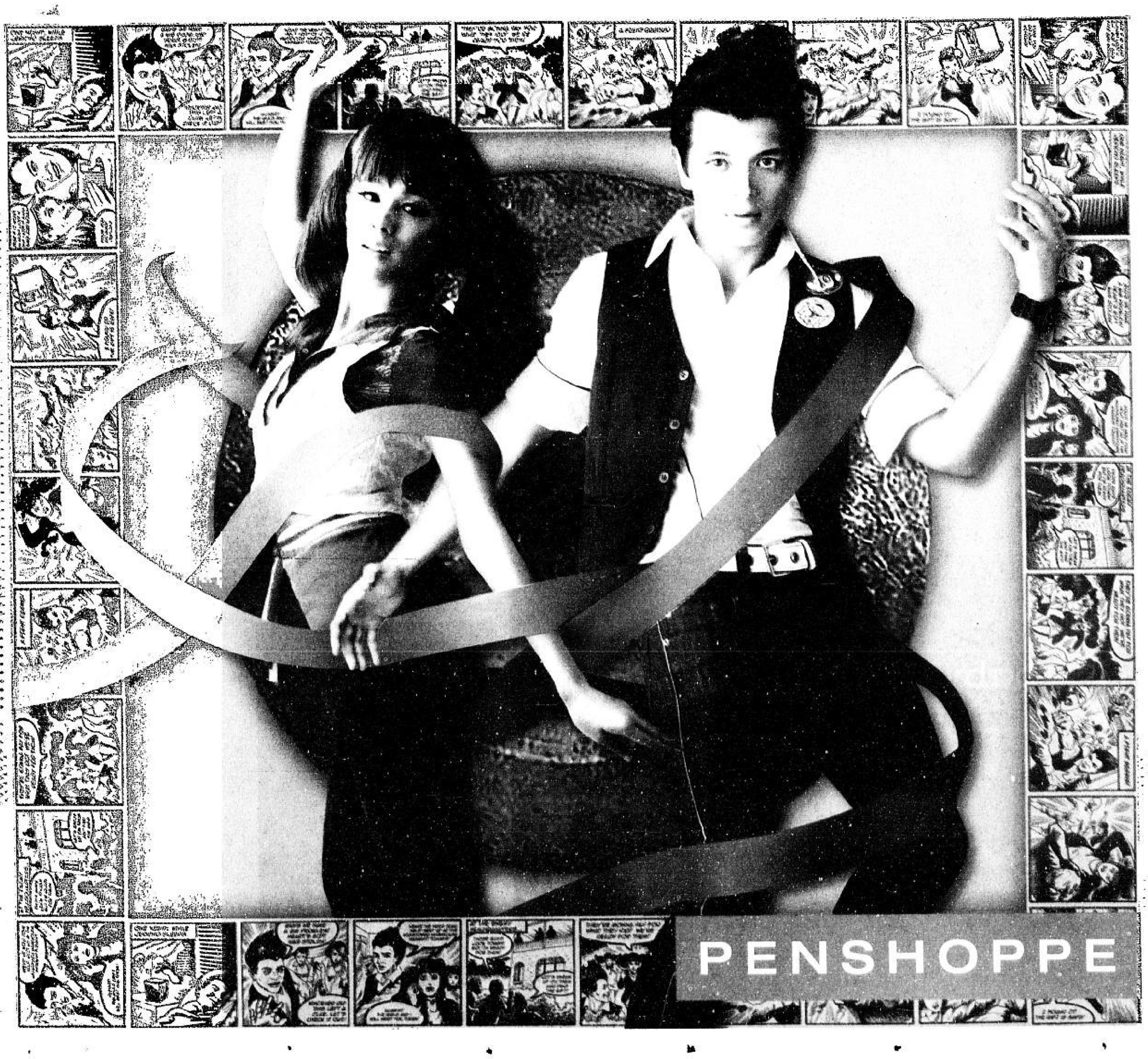
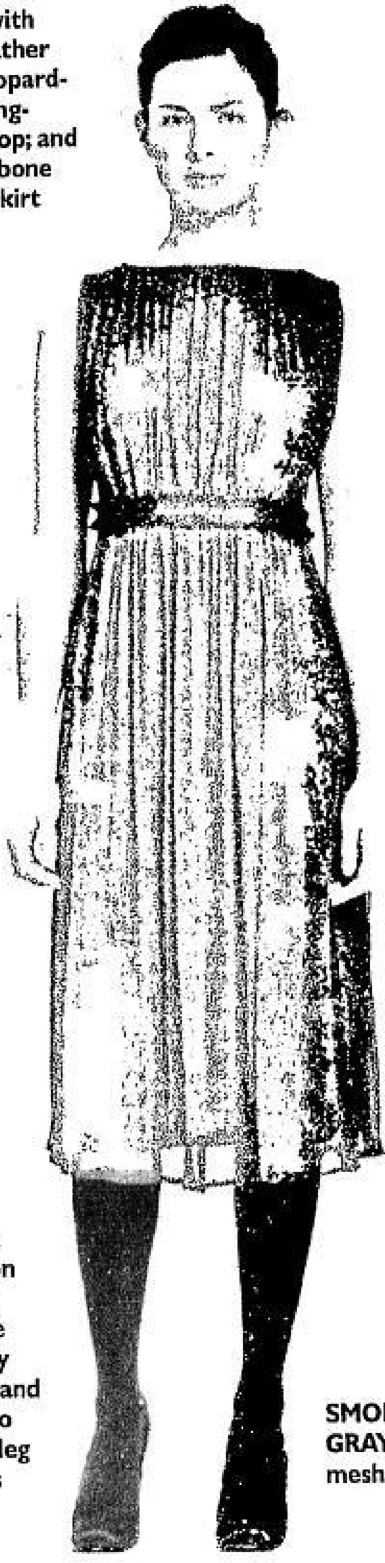


JAVA nylon jacket with faux-leather trim; leopard-print long-sleeve top; and herringbone tweed skirt



SMOKE-GRAY silk mesh dress

JAVA cotton coat, white jersey tank and indigo slim-leg jeans

Simply chic

The Liz Clairborne Fall 2007 collection is both modern and timeless

THE SIMPLE SOPHISTICATION and low-key chic of the Fall 2007 line is created from a fashion sensibility that is distinct and fresh.

The heritage of Liz Claiborne is fashionable, versatile, high quality clothing with a distinctly modern point of view that is timeless. The Fall 2007 line carries that heritage forward and takes it to an entirely new level of affordable designer clothing with modern shapes, luxe fabrics and distinctive details.

Silhouettes. Architectural simplicity, precise tailoring and new proportions are key for this collection. A-line, voluminous dresses, shifts, trapeze sweaters, cropped jackets and topper coats over slim pants or slouchy trousers define the look of the season.

Color. Color and print are more subdued. All shades of grey and taupe are important, highlighted by flashes of green, yellow, teal, coral and orange.

Fabrics. Luxurious textures and the importance of shine create newness. Felted wools contrast with silk charmeuse, supple leather and shearling with lightweight gauzes.

Details. The magic is in the mix, pairing dark against light, shine with matte. Pintucks, pleats and gathering add soft structure while oversized snaps and belts neatly tie up the season's best looks.

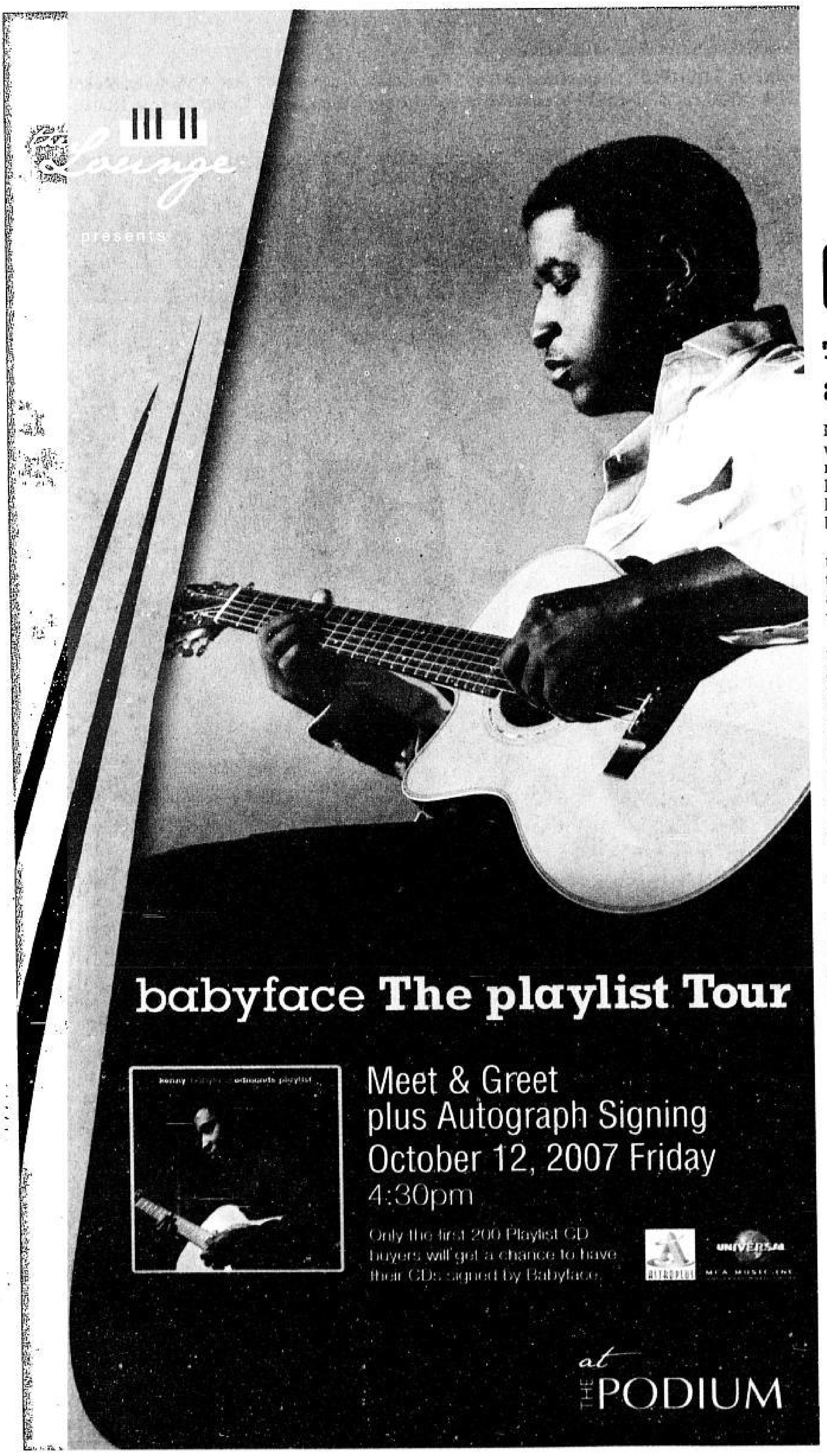
Accessories. Take a shine to accessories this season with patents that pop in unexpected hues. Clutches are classic yet modern in oversized silhouettes. Pretty pleating details and signature hardware create a look that is distinctly feminine.

Liz Claiborne is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. with shops at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, The Power Pant Mall and TriNoma.

DARK-ASPHALT wool sharkskin belted shift dress

BLACK silk charmeuse halter top and black wool sateen slim-leg pants

BLACK wool sateen A-line jacket; white wool gauze tunic; and black wool sateen slim-leg pants



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Color-coded

The DKNY Men's Fall 2007 collection

NEW YORK BLACKOUT. IT GOES EVERYwhere and goes with everything. For city men, black is not an option, it's a way of life. Day or night. As an accent, in layers or head to toe. There simply isn't anything better.

DKNY celebrates the ease and sophistication of wearing black. Pieces are modern, textured and cut with an edge. The thing about a black-based wardrobe is it works—wherever, however, forever.

Black and blue. The iconic pieces he needs in the colors he loves. The new soft-shouldered jackets have attitude and purpose—the cool luxe of a lightweight doubleface balmacaan, the ease of overdyed cord jacket, the sport of a 3-in-1 nylon anorak, to the grit of a city-transit denim. Patterned shirts go from laundered to dress, pants are slim or relaxed, and knits are as sporty as a bonded pique jersey or as classic as a fitted fine merino and cashmere V-neck.

Gray matters. Black offset with the softness of gray or camel. Pavement-inspired textures like mélanges and tweeds cozy up wintry layers. A nylon baseball jacket wears with anything, while a doubleface peacoat dresses up or down.

Moleskin adds a casual softness, be it in an elbow-patch jacket or top coat. Shirts add a crisp flash of white, while sweaters are luxe and lush, like the cashmere cable cardigan or alpaca pullover.

Brownout. The quickest way to warm up black? With layers of brown. Sleek and sophisticated dark-chocolate textures dress up black essentials—a buttery leather jacket, tweed zip blazer, velvet blazer, double-breasted angora and cashmere coat. Shirts accent in shades of pink by way of jacquard and dobby prints. And to really warm things up, throw on a hand-knit cardigan or pullover in bright red or essential black.

The luxe jersey bar. DKNY raises the bar with a cashmere jersey bar where cashmere has the offhandedness of a T. Comfort is redefined in five dazzling colors—insignia, electric-blue, green, yellow and, of course, black. These jersey-style pullovers are lined in gray T-shirting, for a look that's as sporty as it is irresistible to the touch.

DKNY is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., with shops in Greenbelt 4, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Rustan's Makati and 158 Designers' Blvd.

THIS Fall, offset a black-based wardrobe with masculine neutrals

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BEAUTY

Glam for Fall

I asked Lancôme's makeup artists to use their autumn palette to enhance three different beauties

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

THE "NO MAKEUP makeup" look is one of my favorites. It's also one of the most reliable looks in beauty today.

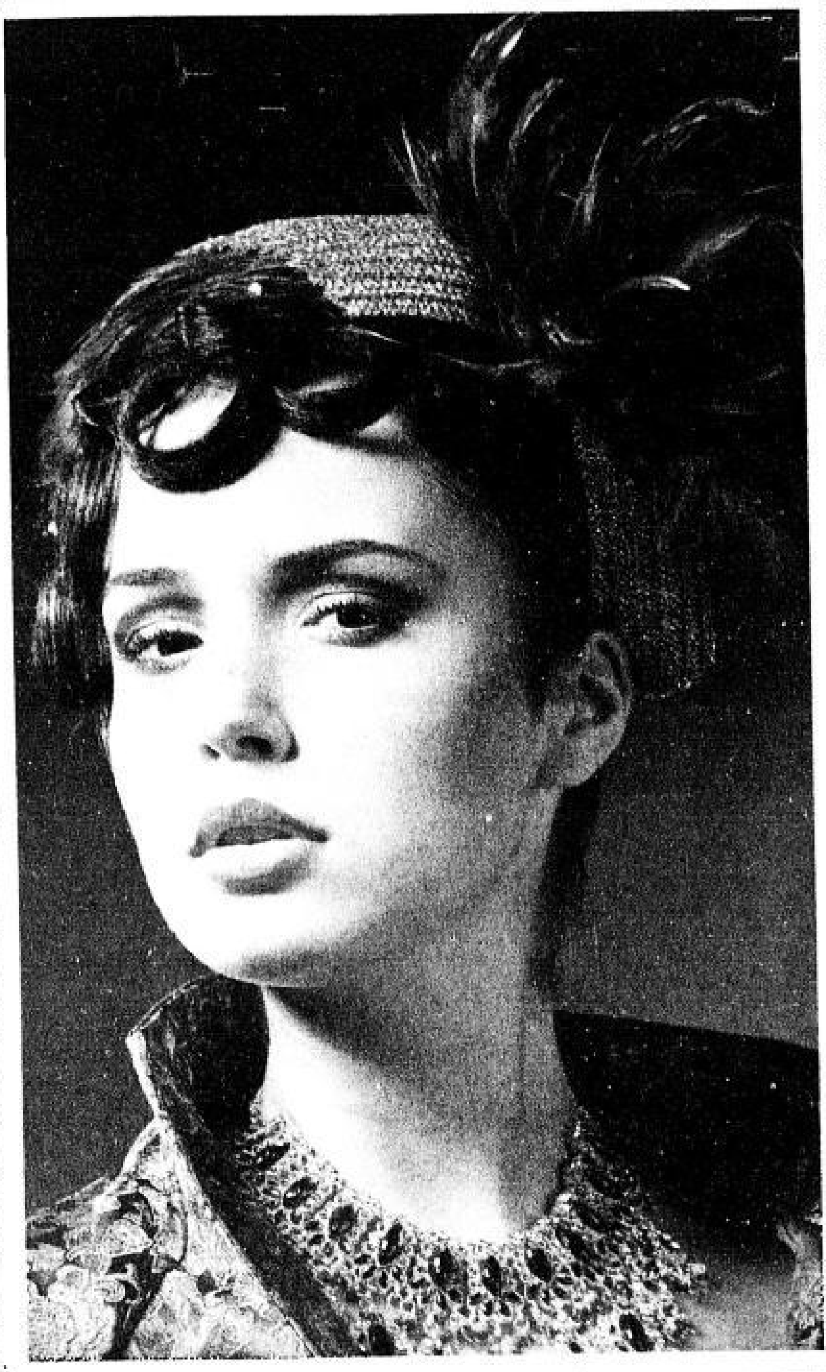
Every girl should master her very own natural enhancing routine, be it curling one's lashes, painting on some blush or tinted lip gloss and adding mascara. Yes, it is that simple. Although others may require a few more steps, the result is always a fresher, more radiant you.

I asked Lancôme's makeup artists to use their fall palette and glam up three different beauties. As much as the "no makeup makeup" look is great, it is also good to know when to turn up that oomph factor for a night out, a formal event, or just to change one's look sometimes.

An element of surprise and sophisticated drama never hurts anyone. Besides, I find it to be the least expensive way to play dress-up.

Here are three glam fall looks and how to achieve them. Take your pick and make them your own.

Look: Beautiful eyes, glossy lips in red wine

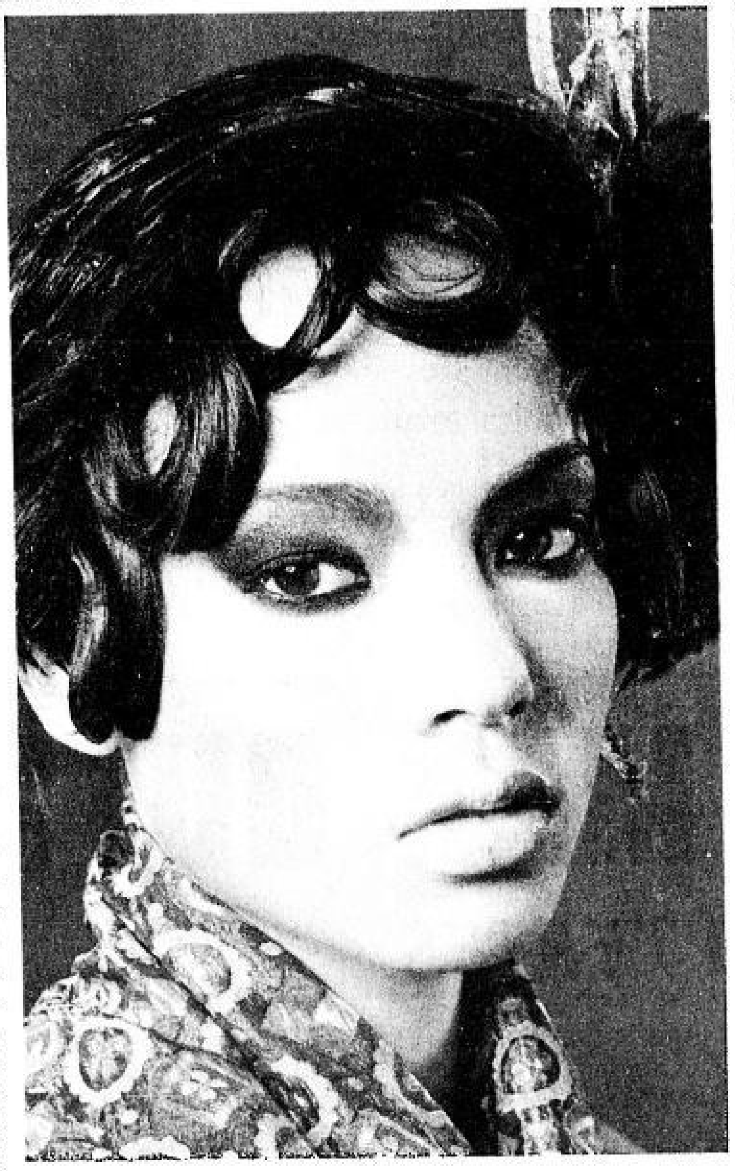


Photography Pocholo Ignacio
Makeup Sabs Hernandez
Hair Jake Galvez and Buern Rodriguez of Tony Galvez Salon Using L'Oreal Professionel
Model Hillary Choo

"What inspired me to create this look using Lancôme's Destiny Cube was the whimsical feel that it expresses with the palette's name, "Charisma." I started by washing the entire lid with its light violet shadow with silver flecks, and defined the creases and her lash lines with its olive green shadow. I wanted to give her a natural flush by applying Blush Subtil #3, concentrating mainly on her cheekbones, and using the same light pink shadow for highlighting the cheeks.

For a polished and feminine look, I created a lovely sheer pout by moisturizing with the light pink balm, and topping it with its deep wine gloss that comes with the palette. I finished the look by applying 2 coats of Virtuose Mascara on her lashes, to give her a lustrous, seductive look that keeps the focus on the eyes."—Sabs Hernandez

Look: [illegible] eyes + pale lips

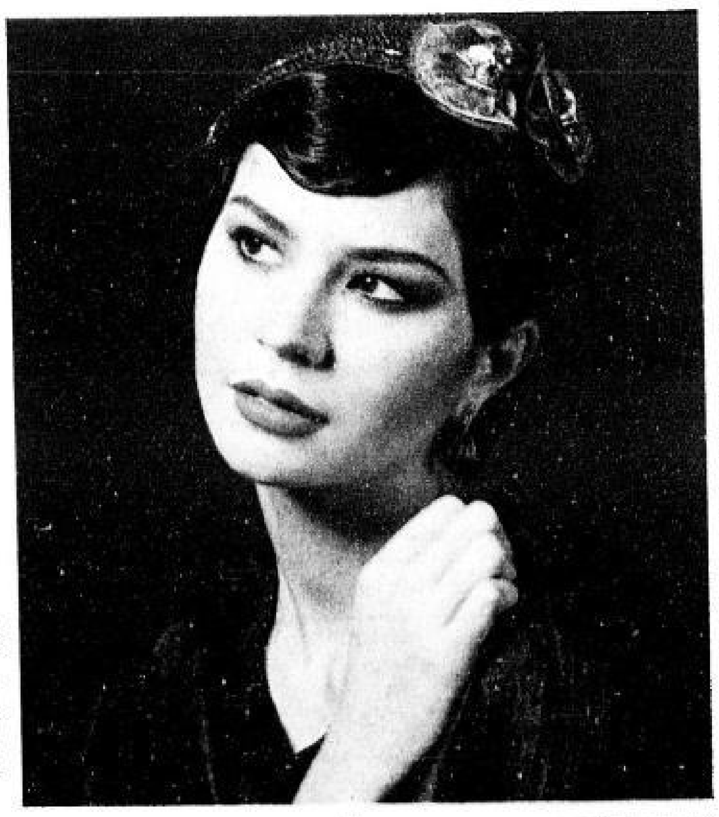


Makeup Gela Laurel
Hair Jake Galvez and Buern Rodriguez of Tony Galvez Salon Using L'Oreal Professionel
Model Kirby Basken

"Using Beige, a dark and exotic collection, I patterned my look on women in the 20s. I used Teinte Renergie lift 03 foundation for a perfect base. For drama, I concentrated on the eyes and kept everything else simple. To create the block of shadow, I first smudged waterproof kohl in raisin noir all the way to the crease.

For a perfect contour, I chose Destiny Cube in Charisma and blended it upward, toward the outer corners of the eyes. Then, I used the lighter color for the brow bone. I also used kohl oriental duo around the rims using the dark side out and the light side in. Two coats of Lextreme mascara finish off the eyes. I used the pale nude pink lip (that comes with the cube) to complement the look."—Gela Laurel

Look: Red lip



Makeup Robbie Pinera
Hair Raymond Santiago for L'Oreal Professionel
Model Jess Wilson

"My take on the classic red lip is coordinating it with a more defined eye. Keeping everything streamlined makes this classic yet dramatic look sexier. After using the Hydrazen neurocalm moisturizer, I chose a matte base (Teinte idole ultra).

"I applied a soft wash of the darker shade in the Charisma destiny cube, followed by brown waterproof kohl around the rims. To finish it off, I used color fever shine Devil in Red for that red pout."—Robbie Pinera

Contributing editor Ria Francisco-Prieto supports the fight against breast cancer

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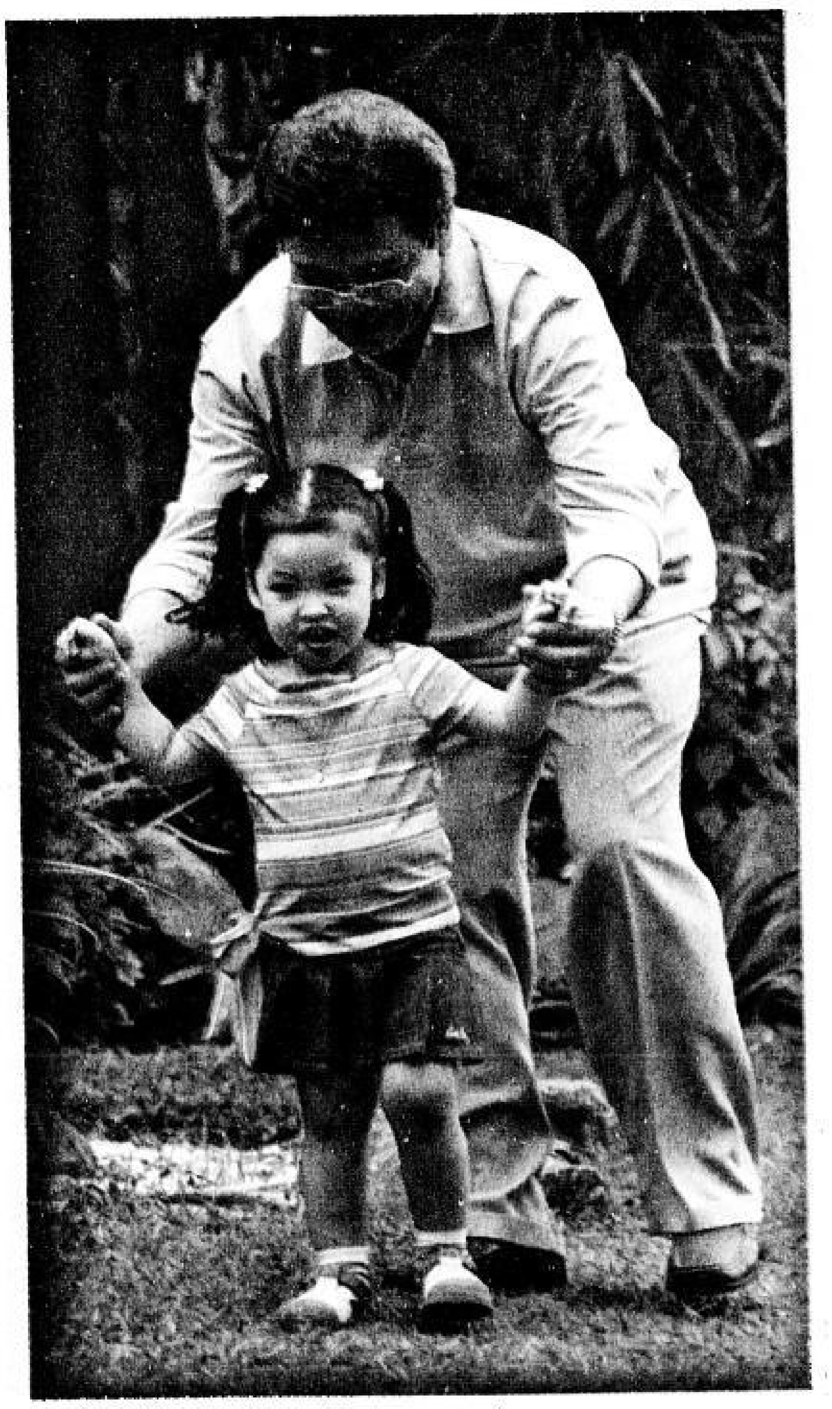

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All set for the finish line

es' First Entry to the World Solar Cha
88

When the Sinag Solar Car rolls out onto Australia's outback for the prestigious World Solar Challenge on October 21 to 28, it will be carrying with it the hopes and dreams of the Filipino people for a cleaner and brighter future. As the Philippines' first ever entry to the WSC, Sinag is a shining symbol of our national pride, as well as a momentous embodiment of Filipino capability and the will to achieve.

The WSC was conceptualized in 1987 by Danish adventurer Hans Thorstrup, the first person to circumnavigate Australia with a 16-foot open boat and the first to co-drive the world's first solar car, The Quiet Achiever, across the continent. Since then, hundreds of teams across the globe have joined this remarkable race. A total of 45 solar-powered cars from 21 countries will be competing head-to-head in this year's grueling 3,000km run from Darwin to Adelaide.

"The WSC is inspired by adventure and fueled by the spirit of friendly competition, attracting teams from research and educational institutions from around the world," says Australian Tourism Minister Jane Lomax-Smith.

Paving the way for the future

At the 20th WSC this year, the rules have been upgraded to pave the way for more comfortable and practical solar car designs that could, with little modification, become the basis for the commercial solar cars of the future.

Designed and built from scratch to these specifications, the Sinag solar car was made by a group of dedicated faculty and students from the Mechanical Engineering and the Electronics and Communications Engineering Departments of De La Salle University-Manila, with the support of Ford Group Philippines, Motolite, Philippine Airlines, San Miguel Corporation, Shell, SunPower, U-Freight, and Ventus. The project is also supported by Aurora, Cabrera Lavadia and Associates, JWT, CreAsia, Merritt Partners, Tuason Racing School, Gochermann Solar Technology, and Stratworks.

> 'Sinag is about opting for a cleaner environment through use of solar energy and Team Sinag knows that they can convince more people to make that choice by taking on the World Solar Challenge'

Beating the odds for a cleaner environment

After months of preparation and weeks of training, Team Sinag has come a long way in a very short time, but there's a lot more that still has to be done. "It's definitely not going to be a walk in the park," says the team's trainer, Asian Formula 3 racer and karting champion JP Tuason, "But I believe we have the right team for it. They're all gung-ho and ready to do what's needed to make the country proud."

Despite their lack of experience, the drivers and the rest of Team Sinag are confident that they can beat the odds. What makes it all worthwhile for Team Sinag is the fact that they're all doing this for a cause. Sinag is about opting for a cleaner environment through use of solar energy and Team Sinag knows that they can convince more people to make that choice by taking on the World Solar Challenge. Sinag lead driver Eric Tan speaks for everyone when he says, "We're all set to take on the challenge and show the world what Filipinos can do!"

For more information on Sinag, check out www.philippinesolarcar.org

Meet Team

SINAG IS MORE THAN A CAR - IT'S A team of dedicated people behind the car's design, construction, testing, and operation. Composed of students from De La Salle University-Manila, Team Sinag highlights the dedication and passion of the youth to promote a greener, cleaner future.

Eric
Head driver

Eric is proficient in many sports, including basketball, soccer, and badminton, just to name a few. He's a self-confessed motorsports enthusiast, tech geek, gym fanatic, and "a good DVD marathoner". Despite his rigorous physical training, he's also a consistent recipient of DLSU's Jose Rizal Award and always enjoys reading a good book.

Robert Obiles
Overall team leader

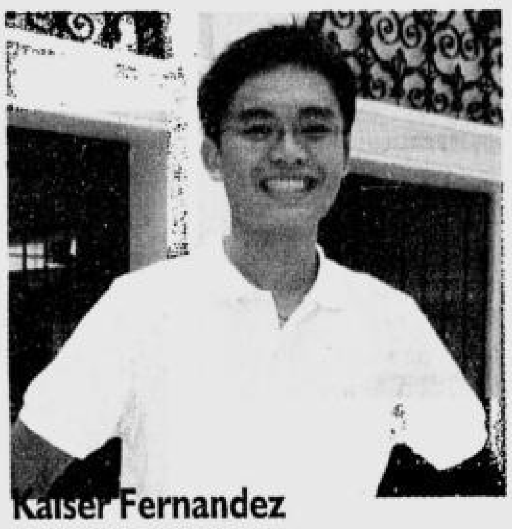
An Eagle Scout since high school, Robert knows first-aid, signaling, and other outdoor skills. He plays badminton and practices wushu. An expert programmer, he won top prize in a recent computer programming competition. Because of Sinag, he now has a growing fascination with cars.

Martin Sy-Quia
Shell team leader

This talented student heads the Second Violin section of the DLSU Chamber Ensemble. His other talents include writing and fiberglass-working. Sinag was his first time to "mess with chemicals on such a big project," he sheepishly confides.

Mico Villena
Mechanical team leader

As president of DLSU's Mechanical Engineering Society, Mico is well-placed to head the nuts-and-bolts boys of Team Sinag - and still manages to be a Dean's Lister while he's at it. He enjoys drawing, singing, and dancing.



Kaiser Fernandez
Technical team leader

Multi-talented Kaiser knows how to beatbox and play a host of sports, on top of his love for engineering. He also spends time teaching catechism to kids. He's looking forward to getting an autograph from the Delft University of Technology's Nuon Solar Team, which has won the WSC three times in a row.

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Relaxing way to sculpt your body

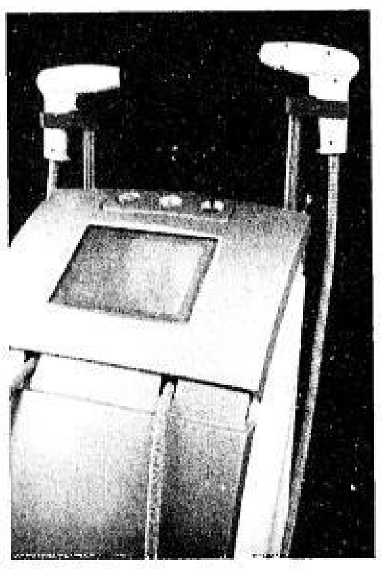
MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

HAD SOMEONE TOLD ME 10 years ago that one day there would be a way to slim down, tone up and get close to obtaining the body of your dreams without pain and blood loss, I would not have believed it.

With my wedding coming up and literally no time to go to the gym, I am currently trying the available slimming treatments that promise faster results at a minimum amount of time. This first stop is at the Belo clinic Medical Plaza branch in Makati. Machines recommended to me: Biosculpt and Tenor.

Biosculpt: a 30 to 45-minute treatment that is done two to three times a week for a total of 12 sessions, which is the minimum number for results to show. The cost is P1,500 per session, but there is an initial payment of P3,000 for a set of 12 pads to be used over and over again by you alone. This is to assure those who are hygiene-conscious like me that my pads won't touch anyone's body but mine, so I don't catch anything through someone else's bad habits.



TENOR inch loss fat-burning machine

My experience: I was led into a private treatment room, asked to strip down to my undies and wrap a towel around my torso. As I lay down, my aesthetician Chelle stuck octopus-looking cords all over my stomach above the muscles. Electric currents target the muscles the moment the machine is turned on. There is a starting-point setting, but try to go higher so results will be faster. I was several numbers higher than usual and my assistant would leave and raise the current. After every adjustment, my back and buttocks would literally rise up from the bed due to the muscle contractions. Toward the last few minutes, I felt a pinching sensation at my side as if that part would tear. I told Chelle about it and she readjusted the position to prevent blisters. Electrical pulses feel like ants are crawling on you; the sensation is normal but the pinching feeling is not. I did an equivalent of about 350 intense abdominal crunches on the lower, upper and side abdominals simultaneously in a 40-minute span. When it was done I was immediately attached to the Tenor.

Tenor

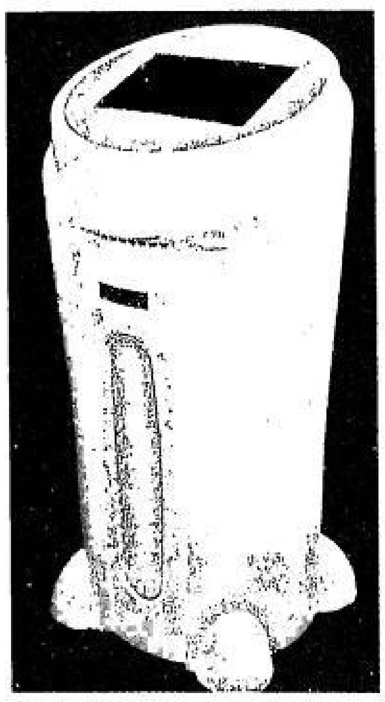
There are two pain factors to deal with related to this treatment—building up of heat discomfort and wallet pain! A session costs P10,000 and is spaced every two weeks and it takes six to eight sessions for results to start showing. This serves to burn fat in targeted areas only and success is measured in inch loss on the specific spot being treated.

My experience: Grid marks via an indelible ink marker were used to draw squares on my stomach and cold gel was slathered on my tummy pretty soon after my Biosculpt treatment. A gun with a metal orb on the tip was swirled all over my tummy and, since it was still numb from the Biosculpt, I had a pretty high heat tolerance at first. One minute was allotted per square of the area. Cold gel was used as buffer for the Infrared heat that burns fat without damaging surface tissue.

You could feel the metal orb heating up. If you react, the aesthetician will lift it off you, then resume treatment till the minute is up for that spot.

Apparently I had higher heat tolerance on the left side but would yelp at less time intervals and temperature on the right side.

Tip: It helps to watch the timer on the machine to see if you can beat it and how long you can stand the heat. I found myself yelping less and even completed the full minute without yelping on some spots.



BIOSCULPT tones muscles intensively while you take a nap.

I was done with both machines in two hours maximum. Chelle cleaned out the grid marks from my tummy and as I stood up I noticed my stomach was flatter and I could not stick it out far.

Perhaps it's the muscle control from the Biosculpt. My clothes fit so much better, too. Final instructions: Tenor requires you drink at least 10 glasses of water daily to flush out toxins and fat.

Side effects: Slightly oily stool the next day from Tenor and painful abdominal muscles from Biosculpt.

I have yet to come back for succeeding sessions. Wish me luck!

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

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BEAUTY FLASH BEAUTY

THEFACESHOP

THE FACE Shop is now open in Rockwell, Power Plant Mall.

Now a familiar face

WHEN THE FACE SHOP opened its first Philippine branch in Glorietta 3 in July 2006, the only thing familiar to most Pinoy mallrats was the face of Koreanovela star Kwon Sang Woo smiling down from the store's posters.

But it wasn't long before this No. 1 Korean cosmetic brand gained popularity in the local market. In just a little over a year since we first caught sight of The Face Shop's bright, modern façade, this beauty boutique seems to have cropped up all over the metro. Now it has 19 branches, to be exact.

Ever hungry for the best and freshest trends, curious customers quickly discovered The Face Shop's enticing array of makeup and nail colors in the season's latest shades. The shop also features several skincare lines, all made from natural products with the most sophisticated technology.

Whitening? Anti-aging? Pimple-busting? Smoothening and softening? Body slimming? Yes, The Face Shop has the answer to your every beauty desire. Best of all, The Face Shop's products are specially formulated for Asian skin, thus catering to our own skin types and tones.

While the chic storefront, the high-quality ingredients and pretty packaging often give shoppers the perception that The Face Shop products are more expensive then they actually are, the items are actually very affordable.

With The Face Shop's winning combination of quality natural products at reasonable prices, the brand has become a fave among celebs and beauty junkies alike.

With the success of the Glorietta branch, franchise owner Suyen Corp. (of Bench fame) opened new branches in rapid succession at SM Mall of Asia, Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Robinsons Galleria, Citywalk 2, Eastwood City, Shoppesville Arcade, Greenhills Shopping Center, Alabang Town Center; TriNoma, Shangri-La Plaza (the biggest branch to date), The Podium; SM Megamall, SM North Edsa The Block, SM Fairview and SM City Pampanga.

Just last month, The Face Shop opened its newest branches at Power Plant Mall, SM Sucat and SM Southmall. In line with Suyen Corporation's vision to make the brand accessible to the entire Philippines, The Face Shop is also now open at SM City Bacolod and Ayala Center Cebu.

The Face Shop is so in demand with chic Cebu denizens that another branch is slated to open this November at SM City Cebu. Says Bryan Lim, VP for business development of Suyen Corp., "We plan to have a total of 24 stores by the end of 2007. We envision The Face Shop to be the market leader in the local cosmetics industry, providing overall care for the face, skin, body and hair."

With 19 branches and counting, it looks like The Face Shop is serious about making its way into every bathroom, dressing table and *kikay* kit in the country.

THE FACE Shop's vast array of beauty products is especially formulated for Asian skin.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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A weekend in New York with U2's Bono

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—U2's **Bono** would like to visit the Philippines.

We found that out when we met the rock legend/activist in New York last weekend. At Miramax's late Saturday evening party for "No Country for Old Men," which had its US premiere at the NY Film Festival, U2's front man was the star.

At the party venue, Gabriel's Bar & Restaurant, not even the sight of **Penelope Cruz** and "No Country…" star **Javier Bardem** (looking, um, very friendly with each other) could divert attention away from Bono. Even the Coen brothers, directors of "No Country…," one of this year's best films, made a beeline to talk to Time magazine's 2005 Person of the Year (an honor Bono shared with fellow philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates).

Nobel Prize bet

"That would be a highlight for me," Bono added after he told us he'd like to visit RP. The rock star is much-admired for being a very vocal spokesman for humanitarian causes, working to cancel Third World debt and raising AIDS awareness.

A three-time nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, Bono was also in town for Miramax's other NY fest entry, the superb "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" by director **Julian Schnabel.** U2 music is featured in the drama which has been steadily gaining good buzz since it wowed critics in Cannes last May.

At one point in the party, Bono took off his ubiquitous sunglasses, treating guests to a rare sight.

Julian, whose "Lou Reed's Berlin" competed with **Lav Diaz's** "Kagadanan sa Banwaan ning mga Engkanto (Death in the Land of Encantos)" and other entries in the Horizons (Orizzonti) Documentary section of the recent Venice Film Festival, shared a table with wife **Olatz Lopez Garmendia** (part of the cast of "The Diving…"), Javier and Penelope, who was beautiful in a black gown.

Javier's co-star, **Josh Brolin,** who should also get nods for his breakthrough performance in "No Country…," was his usual affable self, mingling with guests which included actress **Jennifer Jason Leigh** and her director husband **Noah Baumbach** (the much-lauded "The Squid and the Whale"), who collaborated on "Margot at the Wedding."

Tommy Lee Jones, who is likewise in "No Country…," also graced the party.

No-shows

Earlier in the evening, on the other side of town, DreamWorks hosted a cocktail reception for the **Halle Berry-Benicio Del Toro** drama, "Things We Lost in the Fire."

Neither Halle nor Benicio showed up, but the panoramic view of New York from the SoHo Grand Penthouse made up for it.

The official explanation for the duo being no-shows at their own party was that they had commitments the following day. True—we had press cons with Halle, who is ecstatic that she is finally pregnant, and Benicio.

'Les Miz' matinee

Saturday afternoon, after interviewing **Nicole Kidman,** Jennifer and Noah for "Margot," we rushed to the matinee performance of "Les Miserables" at the Broadhurst Theatre. Seeing **Lea Salonga** and two fresh-faced Fil-Ams, **Adam Jacobs** and **Ali Ewoldt,** tackling major roles, made us proud.

Animated interviewee

Sunday morning, we got a lively **Joaquin Phoenix** talking about his film, "Reservation Road," and other topics. We think Joaquin beat **Russell Crowe** in the number of times he said the "F" word in the course of our press con. But hey, we'll take an animated Joaquin anytime over the other Joaquin we've seen in some past interviews—the moody and quiet one.

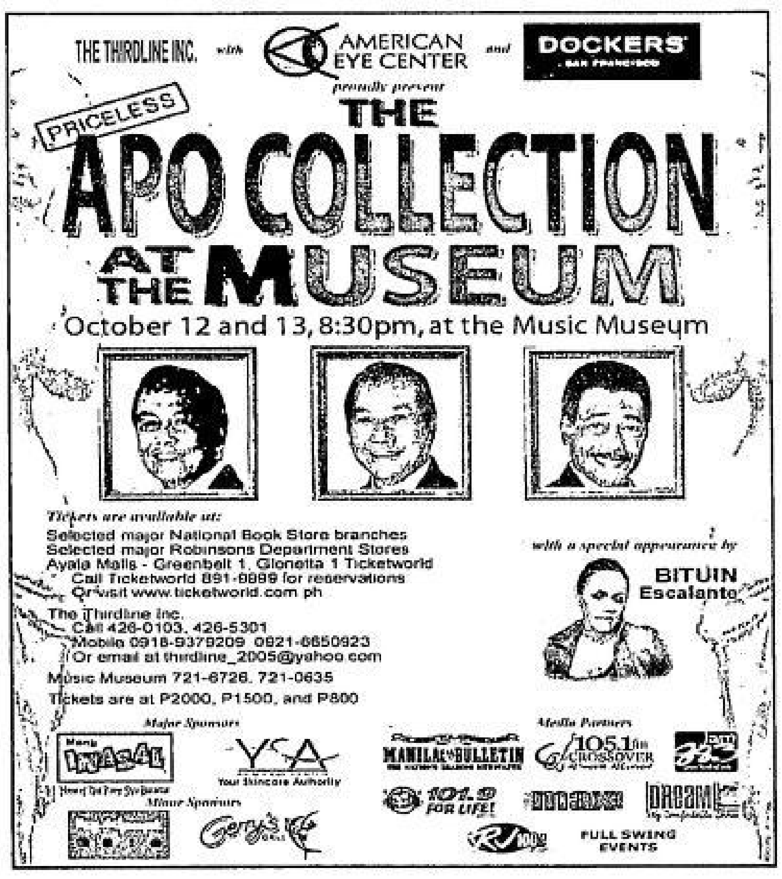
U2's BONO, right (with Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz), says he would like to visit the Philippines. RUBEN V. NEPALES

'60s-inspired musical

Monday afternoon, we stepped off the plane in LA and made a dash to watch the movie "Across the Universe." This musical set in the '60s features 33 Beatles songs.

At the post-screening dinner at Spago, we bumped into **Fritz Friedman,** probably the highest-ranking Fil-Am executive in Hollywood today. In our discussion about the "Desperate Housewives" controversy, Fritz was impassioned about being a Fil-Am and all its ramifications in present-day America.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.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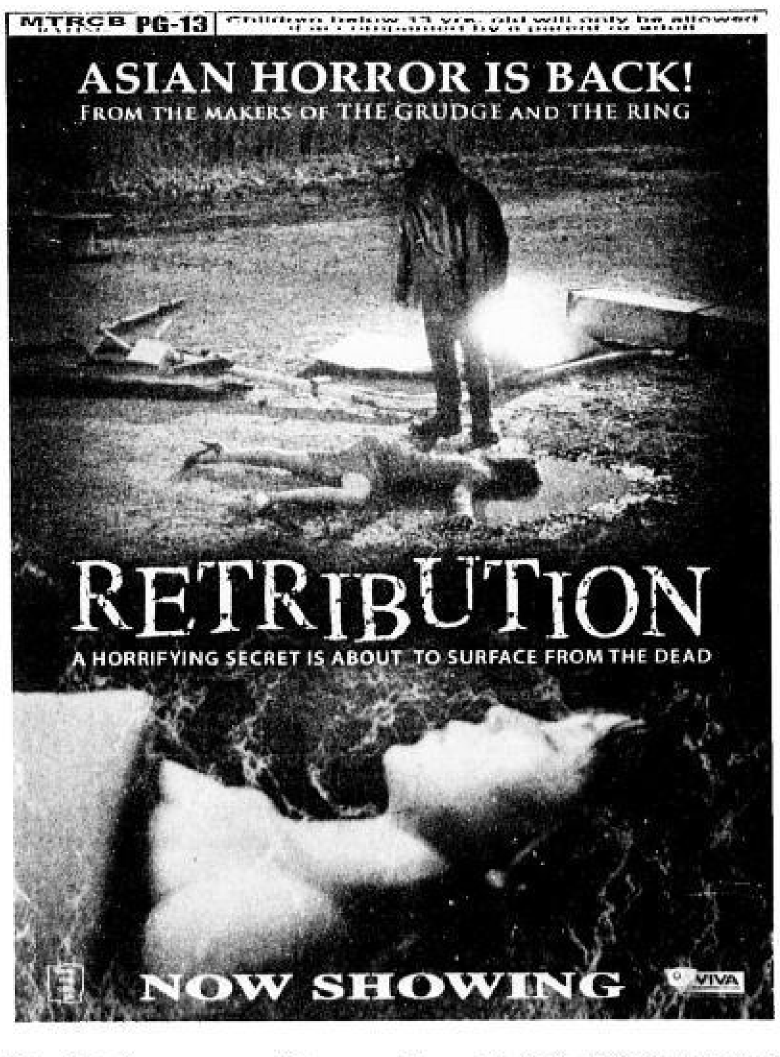
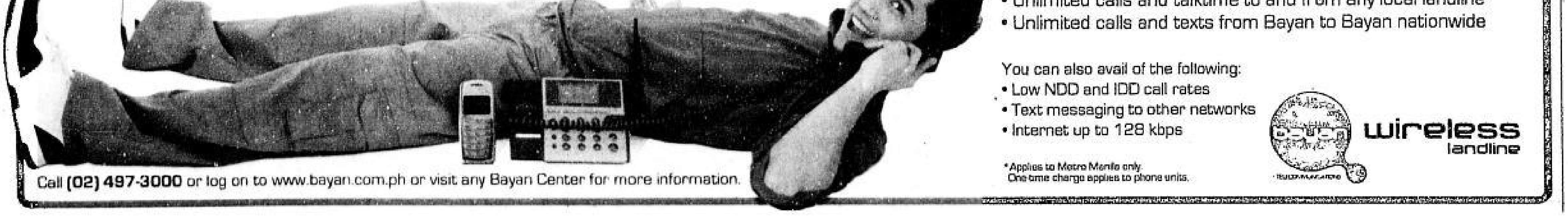
THE ONE STOP FACIAL SALON
Buy 1 Take 1 promo
permanent laser hair removal
PARTICIPATING BRANCHES
SM Bacoor (046) 970-6322 • SM Baguio (074) 619-7744 • SM Clark 935-2375
SM Mall of Asia 556-0480 • SM Manila 527-5908 • SM Megamall 633-5569
SM San Fernando (045) 961-2150 • SM Southmall 800-3291 • SM North Edsa 920-3152
Alabang Town Center 807-5411 • Festival Mall 771-0448 • Greenbelt 1 816-1201
Parksquare 2 817-6531 • Timog 926-7279 • Robinsons Metro East 646-1721


MTRCB PG-13
ASIAN HORROR IS BACK!
FROM THE MAKERS OF THE GRUDGE AND THE RING
RETRIBUTION
A HORRIFYING SECRET IS ABOUT TO SURFACE FROM THE DEAD
NOW SHOWING
VIVA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bayanWIRELESS landline lets you call and talk all you want, even while on the go! For only P699* a month, enjoy all these:
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ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 130 632-9116

1 NO RESERVATIONS • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 STARDUST
1:30 4:15 7:00 9:50
3 RETRIBUTION
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:00 2:20 4:40
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
7 WEDDING DAZE
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
8 indieSine: STILL LIFE
1:45 3:30 5:15 7:00 8:45
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA

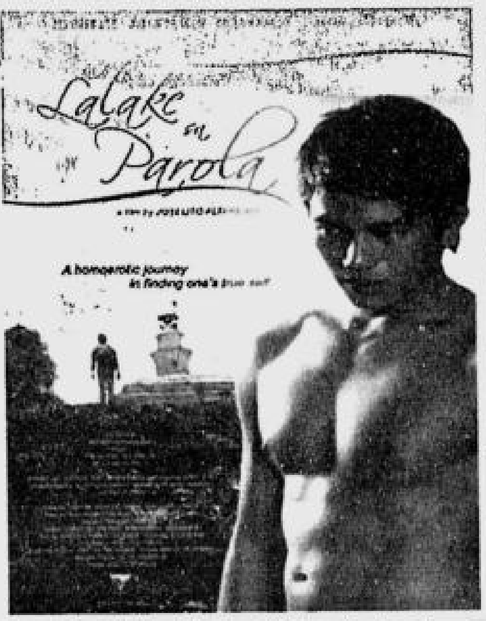
Ticket Price: P110 / P170

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
2 NO RESERVATIONS 12:00 2:00 4:00
WEDDING DAZE 6:10 8:00 10:00
3 STARDUST
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
4 RETRIBUTION
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

exclusive screening
at Robinsons Movieworld
ERMITA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee, Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?


Lalake sa Parola
A homoerotic journey in finding one's true self

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating: R18

GRADED B by the Cinema Evaluation Board

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 CHUCK & LARRY 12:00 2:30
WEDDING DAZE 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 STARDUST
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
4 EVENING
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
5 DECEMBER BOYS
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 RETRIBUTION
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:30 9:00
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 938-3229-30

1 STARDUST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 STARDUST
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 8:55

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90
(049) 837-0907

1 STARDUST
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

LIPA

Ticket Price: P90
(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90
(046) 416-4332

1 DECEMBER BOYS
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100
(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 STARDUST
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95
(045) 892-2348

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 SIGNOS
4 SHOOT 'EM UP

TARLAC

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 875-1927

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 THE HOST
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 NO RESERVATIONS
6 SHOOT 'EM UP

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70
(034) 441-0459

1 DAYWATCH
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
6 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50
(033) 336-8070

1 DAYWATCH
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 SHOOT 'EM UP
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Ligaw Liham

Sometime in the 70's, in a small town in Negros, the post office simply stops its operations. No one knew about this except for the postman and his caretaker. When Nor, finds out about this secret, he finds an opportunity to sway to the dance of love when he assumesthe identity of another man. Nor reads the letters hidden in an old warehouse and takes over the pen of Karen's husband who was working in Saigon. Soon after, a correspondence between Nor and Karen takes place. And Nor finds himself truly falling in love.

showing at Robinsons Movieworld Bacolod OCTOBER 10 to 16

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
[illegible]
1 (DOLBY) STURDUST
2 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) NO RESERVATIONS
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) WEDDING DAZE
DECEMBER BOYS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ONE PERCENT FULL
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 STURDUST
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

THEATRES
At Pacific Mall Cabanatuan
Telephone No. (044) 600-3025
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
ROGUE ASSASSIN
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) CHUCK & LARRY
2 (SDDS) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 (DTS) KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 GOLD (DTS) NO RESERVATIONS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) WEDDING DAZE
6 GOLD (SDDS) STURDUST
7 GOLD (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 ONE PERCENT FULL

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 (DOLBY) ONE PERCENT FULL
3 (DOLBY) STURDUST
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3056
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 HOST
3
4

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 RETREBUTION

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 SINKING JAPAN
2 SKINWALKERS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5031 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 (DTS EX) SHOOT EM UP
4 WHITE NOISE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6163 or 72
1 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 (DOLBY) STURDUST
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 (DTS) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) HOST
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) RISE BLOOD HUNTER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 I FALLEN FOR YOU
3 (DOLBY) LAST LEGION
4 (DTS) ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 HOST
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) ONE PERCENT FULL
2 KALAPATI SA GABI
3 KANDUNGAN
4 (DTS) DISTURBIA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) DISTURBIA
2 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
3 (DTS) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 HOST
5 CHUCK & LARRY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 CHUCK & LARRY
3 ALIPIN NG ALIW
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

A word...

From page H4

demo with Bootsy Collins. He was great to work with.

You were very successful as collaborator/producer of so many artists. Can you cite memorable moments in the studio?

All of them are memorable.

You co-founded LaFace with your former band mate LA Reid. What were the highlights of those years?

LaFace is now owned by Arista Records. The highlights of the LaFace years were the artists that we found and worked with, from Usher to TLC to Toni Braxton to Outkast. Every time anyone of them had a hit, it was a highlight.

You've been cited as one of the creators of the "New Jack Swing" sound, which helped bring hip hop to the mainstream. Did you set out to help craft this sound?

I wouldn't say that LA Reid and I were directly responsible for [that]. New Jack Swing can mostly be attributed to Teddy Riley.

What's the significance, for you, of the songs covered in "Playlist," and why do you seem to be in a very mellow mood?

The songs on "Playlist" are songs that I grew up listening to, and which inspired me both as the musician and the writer that I became.

How many songs have you written; which are your favorites and why?

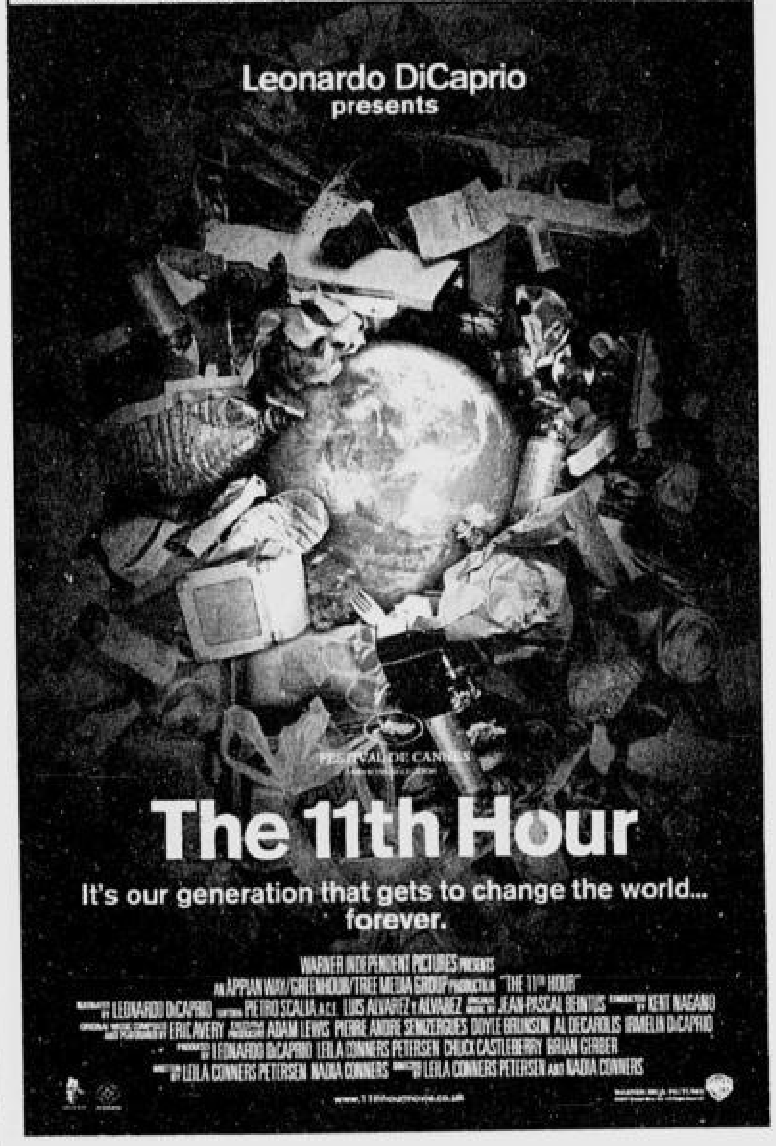
I can never pick favorites.

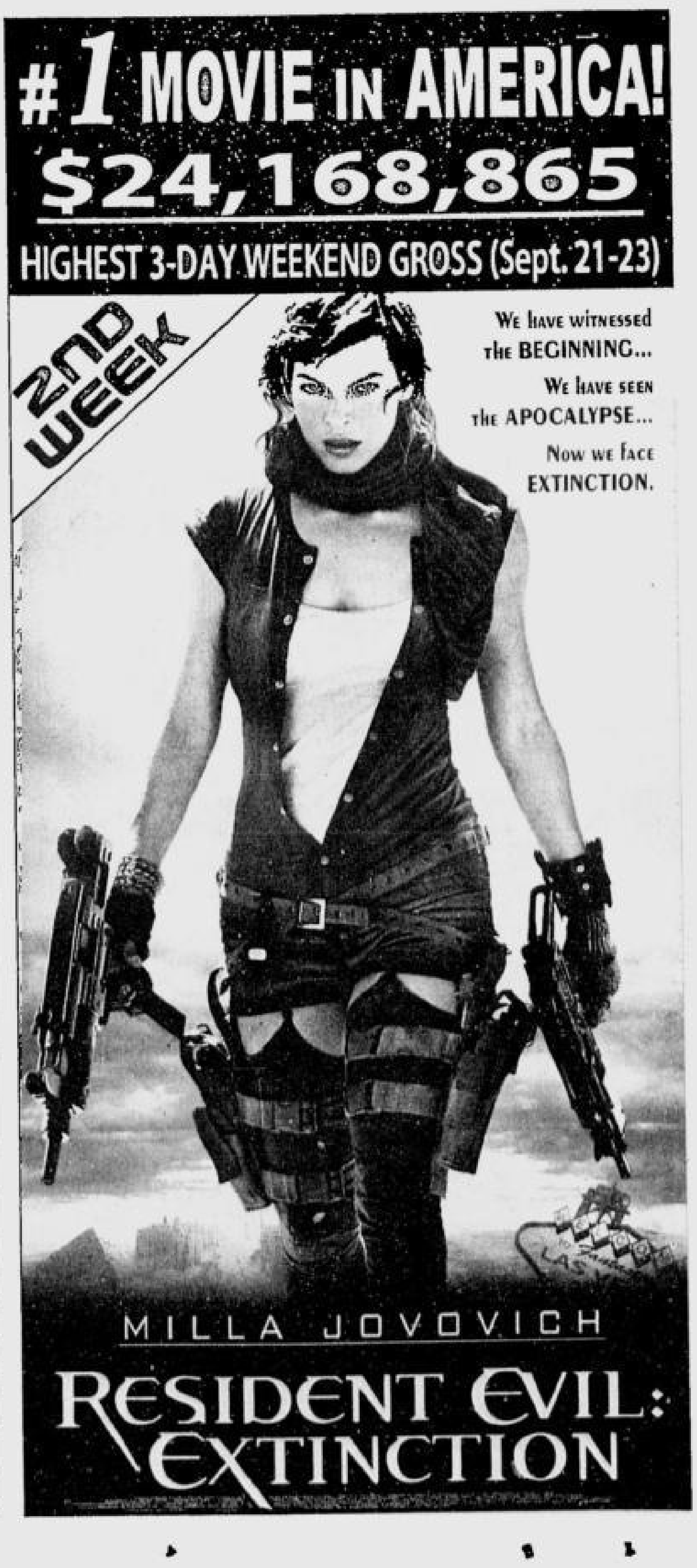
What did you add or enhance as producer in the latest Fallout Boy album?

I think I helped them more vocally than anything. It was mostly the harmonies, the arrangements, and bringing strings to punk rock.

(The Babyface concert will have Pinoy R&B group Tribe of Levi as front act.)

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED

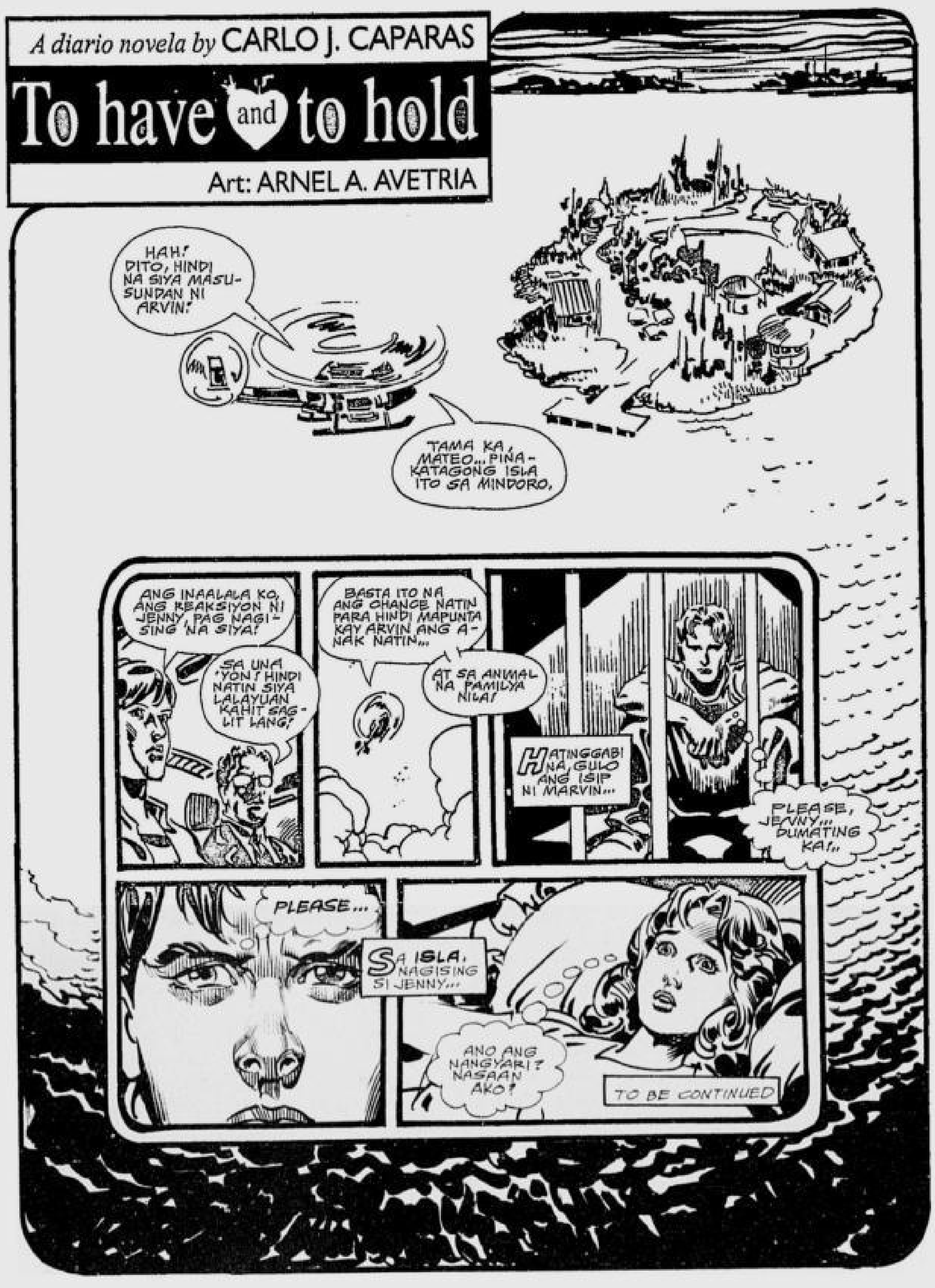

Leonardo DiCaprio presents
FESTIVAL DE CANNES
The 11th Hour
It's our generation that gets to change the world... forever.
WARNER INDEPENDENT PICTURES PRESENTS AN APPIAN WAY/GREENHOUR/TREE MEDIA GROUP PRODUCTION "THE 11TH HOUR"
NARRATED BY LEONARDO DiCAPRIO EDITOR PIETRO SCALIA A.C.E. LUIS ALVAREZ Y ALVAREZ JEAN-PASCAL BEINTUS CONDUCTED BY KENT NAGANO
ERIC AVERY ADAM LEWIS PIERRE ANDRE SENIZERGUES DOYLE BRUNSON AL DECAROLIS IRMELIN DiCAPRIO
PRODUCED BY LEONARDO DiCAPRIO LEILA CONNERS PETERSEN CHUCK CASTLEBERRY BRIAN GERBER
WRITTEN BY LEILA CONNERS PETERSEN NADIA CONNERS DIRECTED BY LEILA CONNERS PETERSEN AND NADIA CONNERS


# 1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
$24,168,865
HIGHEST 3-DAY WEEKEND GROSS (Sept. 21-23)
2ND WEEK
We have witnessed the BEGINNING...
We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
Now we face EXTINCTION.
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

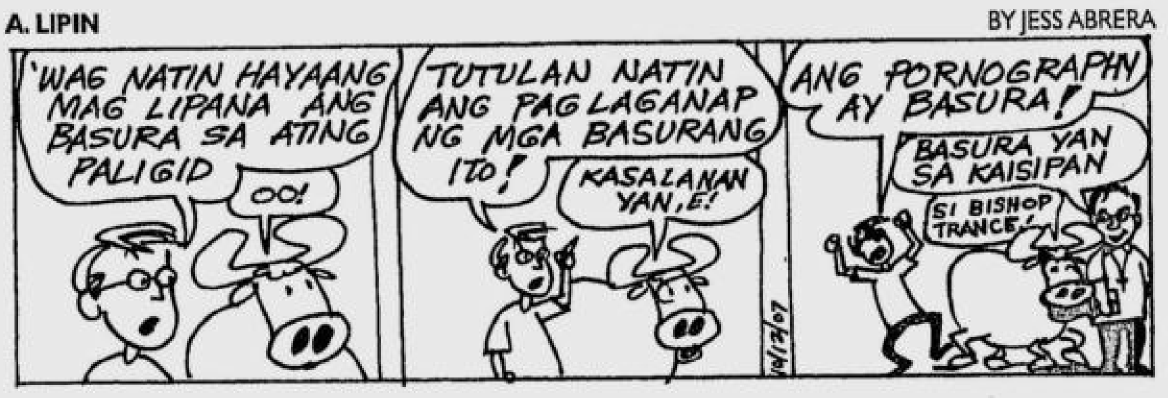
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


HAH! DITO, HINDI NA SIYA MASUSUNDAN NI ARVIN!
TAMA KA, MATEO... PINAKATAGONG ISLA ITO SA MINDORO.
ANG INAALALA KO, ANG REAKSIYON NI JENNY, PAG NAGISING NA SIYA!
SA UNA 'YON! HINDI NATIN SIYA LALAYUAN KAHIT SAGLIT LANG!
BASTA ITO NA ANG CHANCE NATIN PARA HINDI MAPUNTA KAY ARVIN ANG ANAK NATIN...
AT SA ANIMAL NA PAMILYA NILA!
HATINGGABI NA, GULO ANG ISIP NI MARVIN...
PLEASE, JENNY... DUMATING KA!..
PLEASE...
SA ISLA, NAGISING SI JENNY...
ANO ANG NANGYARI? NASAAN AKO?
TO BE CONTINUED

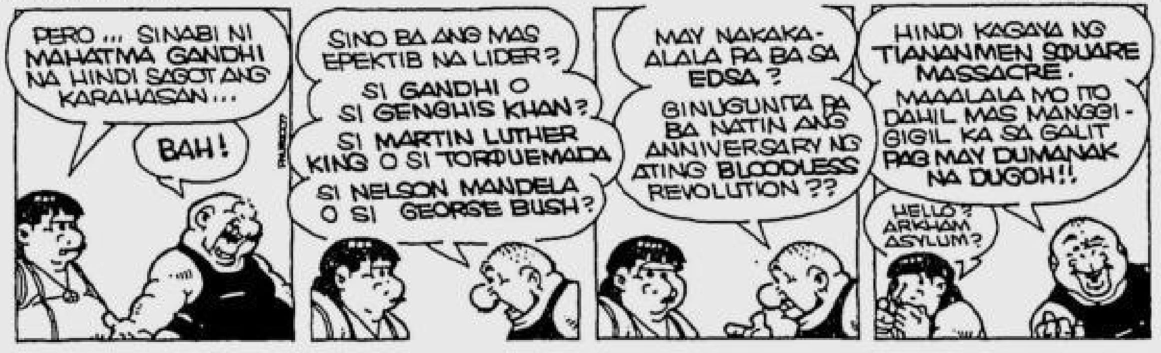
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'WAG NATIN HAYAANG MAG LIPANA ANG BASURA SA ATING PALIGID
OO!
TUTULAN NATIN ANG PAG LAGANAP NG MGA BASURANG ITO!
KASALANAN YAN, E!
ANG PORNOGRAPHY AY BASURA!
BASURA YAN SA KAISIPAN
SI BISHOP TRANCE!
10/12/07

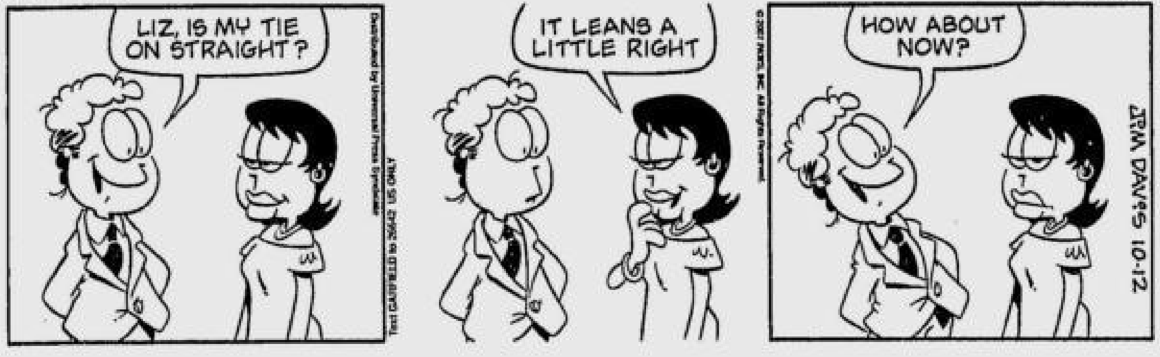
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PERO... SINABI NI MAHATMA GANDHI NA HINDI SAGOT ANG KARAHASAN...
BAH!
SINO BA ANG MAS EPEKTIB NA LIDER? SI GANDHI O SI GENGHIS KHAN? SI MARTIN LUTHER KING O SI TORQUEMADA SI NELSON MANDELA O SI GEORGE BUSH?
MAY NAKAKAALALA PA BA SA EDSA? GINUGUNITA PA BA NATIN ANG ANNIVERSARY NG ATING BLOODLESS REVOLUTION??
HINDI KAGAYA NG TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE. MAAALALA MO ITO DAHIL MAS MANGGIGIGIL KA SA GALIT PAG MAY DUMANAK NA DUGOH!!
HELLO? ARKHAM ASYLUM?

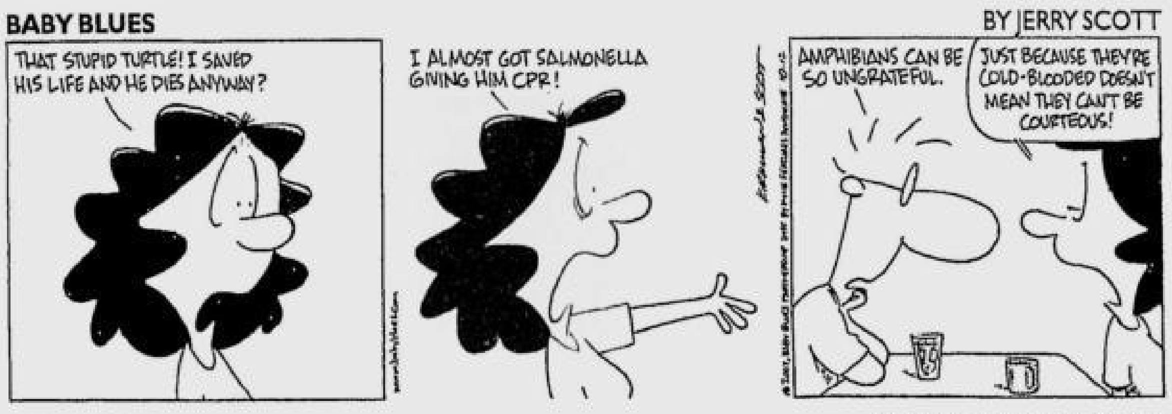
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


LIZ, IS MY TIE ON STRAIGHT?
IT LEANS A LITTLE RIGHT
HOW ABOUT NOW?
JIM DAVIS 10-12

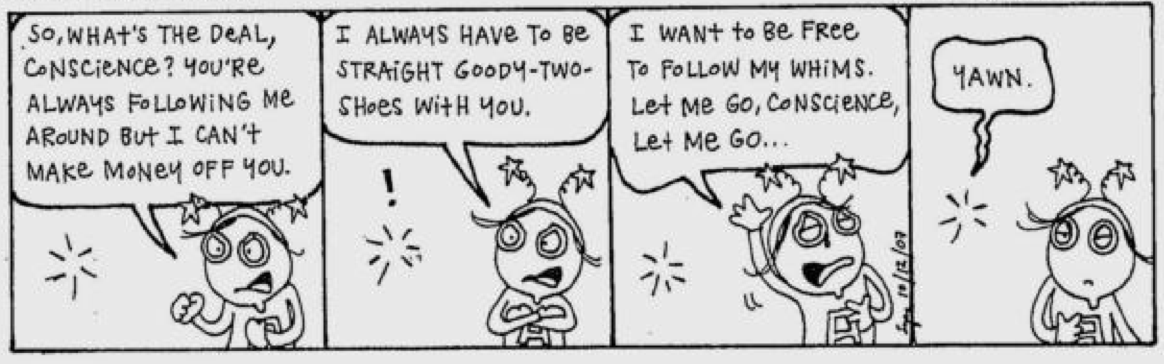
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT STUPID TURTLE! I SAVED HIS LIFE AND HE DIES ANYWAY?
I ALMOST GOT SALMONELLA GIVING HIM CPR!
AMPHIBIANS CAN BE SO UNGRATEFUL.
JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE COLD-BLOODED DOESN'T MEAN THEY CAN'T BE COURTEOUS!

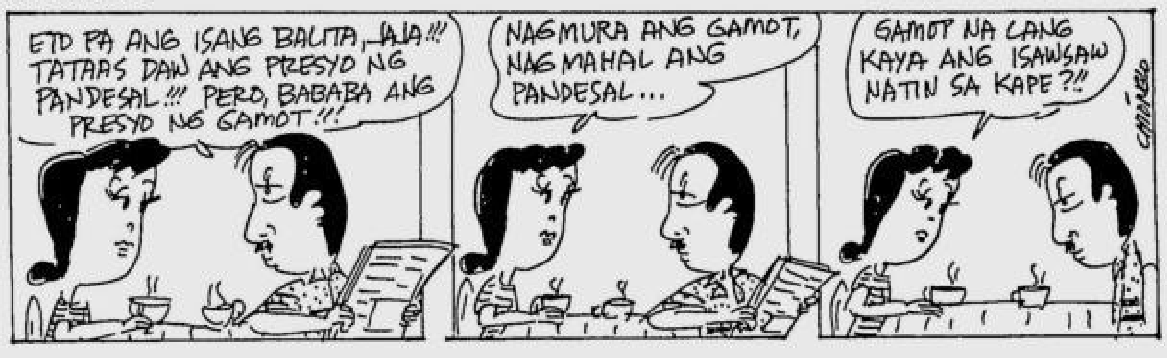
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


So, WHAT'S THE DEAL, CONSCIENCE? YOU'RE ALWAYS FOLLOWING ME AROUND BUT I CAN'T MAKE MONEY OFF YOU.
I ALWAYS HAVE TO BE STRAIGHT GOODY-TWO-SHOES WITH YOU.
!
I WANT to BE FREE TO FOLLOW MY WHIMS. LET ME GO, CONSCIENCE, LET ME GO...
YAWN.
10/12/07

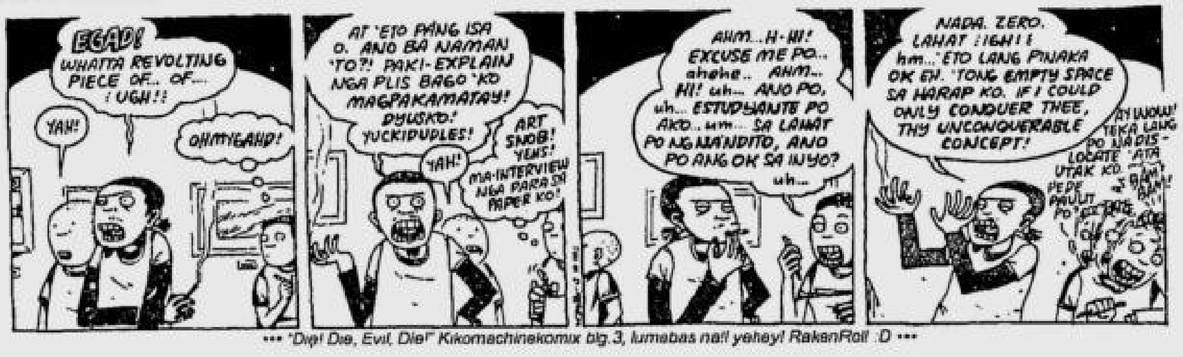
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ETO PA ANG ISANG BALITA, ~~AJA~~!!! TATAAS DAW ANG PRESYO NG PANDESAL!!! PERO, BABABA ANG PRESYO NG GAMOT!!!
NAGMURA ANG GAMOT, NAGMAHAL ANG PANDESAL...
GAMOT NA LANG KAYA ANG ISAWSAW NATIN SA KAPE?!!
CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE

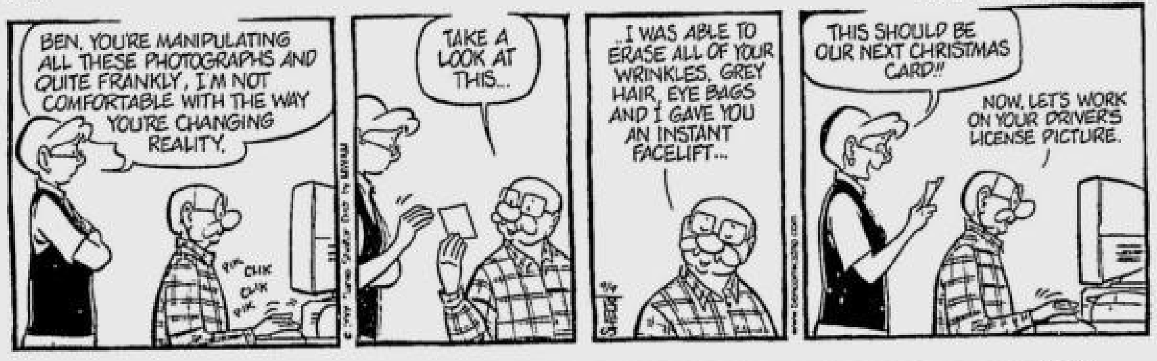
BY MANIX ABRERA


EGAD! WHATTA REVOLTING PIECE OF... OF... ¡UGH!!
YAH!
OHMYGAHD!
AT 'ETO PANG ISA O. ANO BA NAMAN 'TO?! PAKI-EXPLAIN NGA PLIS BAGO 'KO MAGPAKAMATAY! DYUSKO! YUCKIDUPLES!
YAH!
ART SNOB! YES! MA-INTERVIEW NGA PARA SA PAPER KO!
AHM...H-HI! EXCUSE ME PO.. ahehe.. AHM.. HI! uh... ANO PO, uh... ESTUDYANTE PO AKO...um... SA LAHAT PO NG NANDITO, ANO PO ANG OK SA INYO? uh...
NADA. ZERO. LAHAT ¡IGH!! hm...'ETO LANG PINAKA OK EH. 'TONG EMPTY SPACE SA HARAP KO. IF I COULD ONLY CONQUER THEE, THY UNCONQUERABLE CONCEPT!
AYWOW! TEKA LANG PO NADISLOCATE 'ATA UTAK KO. PEPE PAULIT PO

••• "Dip! Die, Evil, Die!" Kikomachinekomix blg.3, lumabas na!! yehey! RakenRoll :D •••

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, YOU'RE MANIPULATING ALL THESE PHOTOGRAPHS AND QUITE FRANKLY, I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE WAY YOU'RE CHANGING REALITY.
CHIK CHIK CHIK
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...
...I WAS ABLE TO ERASE ALL OF YOUR WRINKLES, GREY HAIR, EYE BAGS AND I GAVE YOU AN INSTANT FACELIFT...
THIS SHOULD BE OUR NEXT CHRISTMAS CARD!!
NOW, LET'S WORK ON YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE PICTURE.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Pharmaceutical
5 One of the Three Bears
9 Friendship
14 Scruff
15 Yale students
16 Actress Taylor
17 Migration and mating rituals, e.g.
20 Be ga-ga over
21 Amer. ship designation
22 Sweet-smelling German city?
26 Respire
30 Los __, NM
31 Oh, why not?
32 Like sushi
33 Pearl gatherer
34 Pickle seasoning
35 Deal (with)
36 Minestrone, e.g.
39 Old Italian bread?
40 Scoots
41 Shinbone
43 Even as Shakespeare spoke
44 Auction off
45 Became gloppy
46 Tremendously
48 Cruise ship "bankers"
49 Daiquiri ingredient
50 Mystery writer Gardner
51 Miners' finds
59 Change for the better
60 "A Death in the Family" writer
61 Run in neutral
62 Nuh-uh!
63 Twist
64 Diplomacy

DOWN
1 CSI tool
2 Managed
3 AP competitor
4 Jewel
5 Honeydews
6 __ and kicking
7 Ore source
8 Silly person
9 Comes up
10 Table constellation
11 Business abbr.
12 Asian holiday
13 You bet!
18 Dan Quayle's successor
19 Snapping reptile
22 Scoundrel
23 "Hamlet" Oscar winner
24 Shirley's roomie
25 Greek letter
26 __ and whistles
27 Condition in River City
28 More cheerful
29 Lamb's parent
31 Printed lies
34 Every twenty-four hours
35 Spirals
37 "__ and Louise"
38 Sound system
39 Table support
42 Classified items
44 Stout
45 Swallowed hard
47 Scene of the action
48 Clean one's feathers
50 Advantage
51 Douglas' isle
52 Chat room abbr.
53 Recent
54 Sci 101 locale
55 Take a chair
56 Ms. Tarbell
57 RN's comfort
58 Put in position

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15				■	16				
17				18					19					
■	■	■	■	20				■	21			■	■	■
22	23	24	25				■	26				27	28	29
30						■	31				■	32		
33					■	34				■	35			
■	36				37					38				■
39				■	40				■	41				42
43			■	44				■	45					
46			47				■	48						
■	■	■	49			■	50				■	■	■	■
51	52	53				54					55	56	57	58
59					■	60				■	61			
62					■	63				■	64			

By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

10/12/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	A	L	A	D	■	P	A	P	A	■	K	L	E	E
O	M	A	N	I	■	A	F	A	R	■	O	I	L	S
R	A	V	E	L	■	S	O	L	E	■	R	B	I	S
T	H	E	W	A	Y	T	O	M	A	K	E	A	■	■
S	S	S	■	T	E	S	T	■	R	I	A	T	A	S
■	■	■	S	E	T	■	■	A	U	S	■	I	R	A
B	O	G	U	S	■	L	O	N	G	S	T	O	R	Y
A	C	R	E	■	D	E	A	N	S	■	A	N	A	S
S	H	O	R	T	I	S	T	O	■	R	U	S	S	O
R	E	O	■	O	C	S	■	■	P	E	T	■	■	■
A	R	M	A	D	A	■	P	A	I	N	■	B	E	E
■	■	S	T	O	P	L	I	S	T	E	N	I	N	G
N	E	M	O	■	R	E	N	T	■	G	O	L	D	A
A	L	A	N	■	I	N	T	O	■	E	D	G	E	D
N	O	N	E	■	O	D	O	R	■	S	E	E	D	S

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10/12/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Privately, you're sensitive. Outwardly, you're charming, social and generous. You fit in no matter where you are. You're happy being the center of attention, but you don't demand it. Your money skills are excellent. You value tradition and proven ways of doing things. People turn to you for emotional support or advice. Work hard in the year ahead for rewards that will soon follow.

Birthdate of: Hugh Jackman, actor; Martie Maguire, musician/singer; Luciano Pavarotti, tenor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day to smooth over troubled waters with close friends and partners. People are in the mood to compromise.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A co-worker might need your help or advice today. Perhaps you are the one who needs help from a co-worker? Either way, approach your job in a spirit of cooperation today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): What a romantic, flirtatious day! Artists can be productive. Playful activities with children will be pleasant. You might teach someone younger something valuable.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A family member might need your help, or vice versa. Any kind of domestic exchange with others will be kindhearted and generous. People feel good toward each other today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your imagination is in high gear today! It's a great day for writing or creating anything. Conversations with others will be mutually sympathetic and pleasant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): If shopping today, you'll be tempted to buy something quite elegant or luxurious. (Be careful about temptation if you have champagne tastes on a beer wallet.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You feel sympathetic to others today. Conversations are mutually rewarding. You find it to put yourself in the position of someone else.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's very easy to put your own needs second to the needs of others today. You will do whatever you can in order to make a difference in the life of someone. (A little help can go a long way.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a lovely day to schmooze with others! You might want to join forces with someone (or a group) for a charitable cause. It feels good to help people today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Others see you as a sympathetic, understanding person today. Quite likely, people will ask for your help. Or possibly, you will ask for the help of a parent or a boss.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your appreciation of beauty is heightened today. Give yourself a chance to enjoy what others have created, be it art, literature, architecture or a park.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Because of your concern for others, you might try to raise funds or help someone. You see ways of using the resources of others to help those who need assistance,

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

3			8		1			9
	7						1	
		5				3		
5				3				1
			2	9	8			
2				5				6
		4				7		
	1						5	
6			9		5			2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/12

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	8	9	1	2	4	5	3	6
4	2	6	9	5	3	7	1	8
5	1	3	8	7	6	2	9	4
8	7	5	3	4	9	1	6	2
9	6	2	5	8	1	3	4	7
1	3	4	2	6	7	9	8	5
3	5	7	4	9	8	6	2	1
6	9	8	7	1	2	4	5	3
2	4	1	6	3	5	8	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41 DOLBY DIGITAL

KUNGFU FIGHTER PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION R13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30	NO RESERVATIONS G 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50
STARDUST G 12:15,2:50,5:25,8:00	WEDDING DAZE R13 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	STARDUST G 2:15,4:50,7:25,10:00

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A word from Babyface

... and why Eric Clapton, Madonna, Fall Out Boy, Boyz II Men and many others are thankful to this songwriter-arranger-singer

TAKE FIVE

By Pocholo Concepcion

BABYFACE DOESN'T TALK MUCH.

Either he's reticent by nature, or he was in a hurry when he replied to questions INQUIRER Entertainment e-mailed in connection with his Big Dome concert tomorrow.

Then again, Babyface (birth name: Kenneth Brian Edmonds) doesn't need to elaborate on his exploits. The records speak for themselves.

In 1989, as the other half of the famed LaFace record label (with Antonio "LA" Reid), Babyface established a hot reputation as producer/songwriter whose work helped the following up their success level: Toni Braxton, TLC, Paula Abdul, Bobby Brown, Whitney Houston, Boyz II Men ("I'll Make Love To You") Madonna ("Take a Bow") Michael Jackson, Eric Clapton ("Change the World") Fall Out Boy ("Thnks fr th Mmrs," "I'm Like a Lawyer with the Way I'm Always Trying to Get You Off") and dozens of other artists.

But Babyface is a performer at heart. Last month, he released his ninth album, "Playlist" (MCA), covering songs by James Taylor ("Shower the People," "Fire & Rain"), Jim Croce ("Time in a Bottle") Bob Dylan "Knockin' on Heaven's Door") Eric Clapton ("Wonderful Tonight") Dan Fogelberg ("Longer") and Bread ("Diary"). They're almost faithful versions of the originals, but one is sure to note distinct elements that Babyface engineered—making them totally after the sentimental Pinoy heart.

At 49, the rich and famous Babyface is now doing only what he wants.

Excerpts from the INQUIRER e-mail interview:

Funk musician Bootsy Collins reportedly gave you the nickname "Babyface." What kind of music were you playing then and what was it like working with Collins?

I was in an R&B group called The Deele with LA Reid at the time, and we were working on a

A WORD/ H2

Last call for Groban show; John Ford Coley tonight at Aliw

SHOW TIME

"I NEVER TRIED TO MAKE PEOPLE BElieve [my music] is classical music," Josh Groban has been quoted as saying. "It's pop music. I've never done opera. I've just been experimenting ... trying things that work for my voice."

Fans still without tickets to Groban's concert on Oct. 18 at the PICC have several options:

Subscribe to Smart Infinity or avail of your Infinity retention package and receive two VIP tickets or two premium tickets bundled with a Nokia 6300 handset. Call 8488889/06.

For tickets, call 09189414217. Ticket buyers can avail of a 10 percent discount by using their Citibank Credit Card or paying in cash and presenting their Citicard. Or buy a Rado True. Call 5560404.

John Ford Coley concerts

John Ford Coley, now 59, shot to fame as the other half of the pop-rock duo England Dan and John Ford Coley in the 1970s ("I'd Really Love To See You Tonight," "Sad to Belong," "We'll Never Have To Say Goodbye Again," "Love is the Answer").

Since 1999, Coley has been part of the songwriting community of Nashville, Tennessee where he lives.

He's back in the Philippines for a series of concerts that starts tonight at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Call 9115555 or 8919999 for tickets.

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1 KUNG FU FIGHTER	2 STARDUST	3 RETRIBUTION	4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
GLORIETTA 4	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 NO RESERVATIONS	3 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 WEDDING DAZE	5 THE 11TH HOUR	6 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	7 HARSH TIMES
GREENBELT 1	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 STARDUST		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX STARDUST	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION		
	3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	4 RETRIBUTION	5 KUNG FU FIGHTER	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 STARDUST	2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4
MARKETI MARKETI	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 RETRIBUTION		
	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	4 STARDUST	5 KUNG FU FIGHTER	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 RETRIBUTION	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 RETRIBUTION	6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	7 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS
CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala Malls

glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	The Click Five! ... America's Best Power Pop Band October 14; 6 PM; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Automadness Exhibit October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Nescafe: Soundskool October 13; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Rhythm Academy: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino October 17; 6 PM; Activity Center

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Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES
"SENSUOUS."
Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
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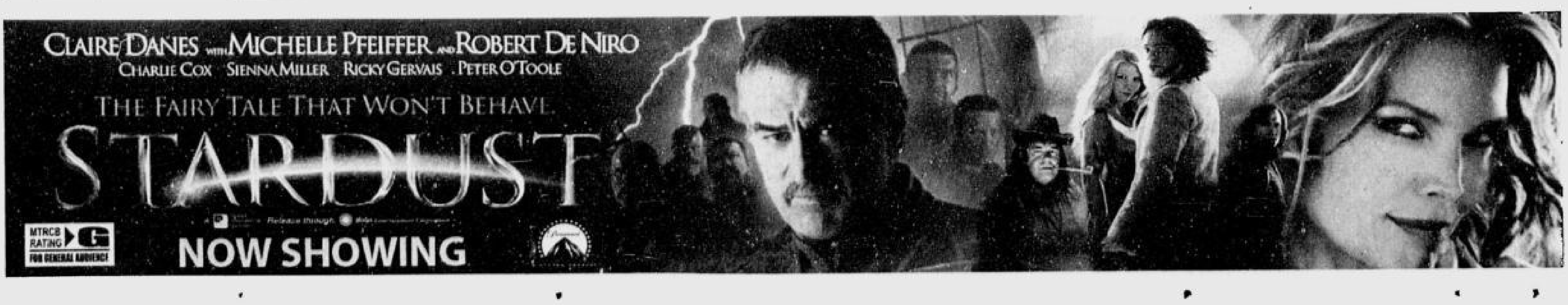
Concierge hotline: 842-2782 / 7721860
myx
RX 93.1

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma


CLAIRE DANES with MICHELLE PFEIFFER and ROBERT DE NIRO
CHARLIE COX SIENNA MILLER RICKY GERVAIS PETER O'TOOLE
THE FAIRY TALE THAT WON'T BEHAVE
STARDUST
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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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LIGHT AND SHADES
Rustom Padilla set the shoot at 5:30 a.m.—to capture the break of dawn from his terrace. To explain his concept, he showed us photos taken with his cell phone camera at that ungodly hour. "*Ang* soft *ng* lighting," he said. Pardon this year's Urian Best Actor. He can't help looking at this pictorial with a director's eye. After all, he finished a two-year certificate program in Film, TV and Digital Entertainment at the University of California in Los Angeles two years ago. Upon his return, he did the interiors of this pad in Makati—combining old and new, modish and native pieces. The home bears witness to his own metamorphosis, he explained. Indeed, the flat is colorful and relaxed, just like the home owner at this point in his life that is by turns turbulent and tranquil. It's been a hard-earned serenity. The gypsy is finally home. Every morning, he opens the bedroom windows and lets the new day in. For more snaps, see Homebody, p. 14. PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Macaulay Culkin likes being home, not necessarily alone

NEW YORK—PUT AWAY YOUR assumptions about Macaulay Culkin. The former child star's girlfriend says he's a homebody.

Culkin, star of the 1990 comedy "Home Alone," has been dating actress Mila Kunis for nearly six years; Kunis, who co-starred on TV's "That 70's Show," says they make a low-key couple.

HOBBIES

"We enjoy each other's company," the 24-year-old actress says in an interview on Parade.com. "We like to read books or play video games or watch TV or go to the movies. And he's an amazing cook."

Kunis says Culkin, now 27, is more mature than people might think.

"He's an amazing, simple guy," Kunis gushes. *AP*

MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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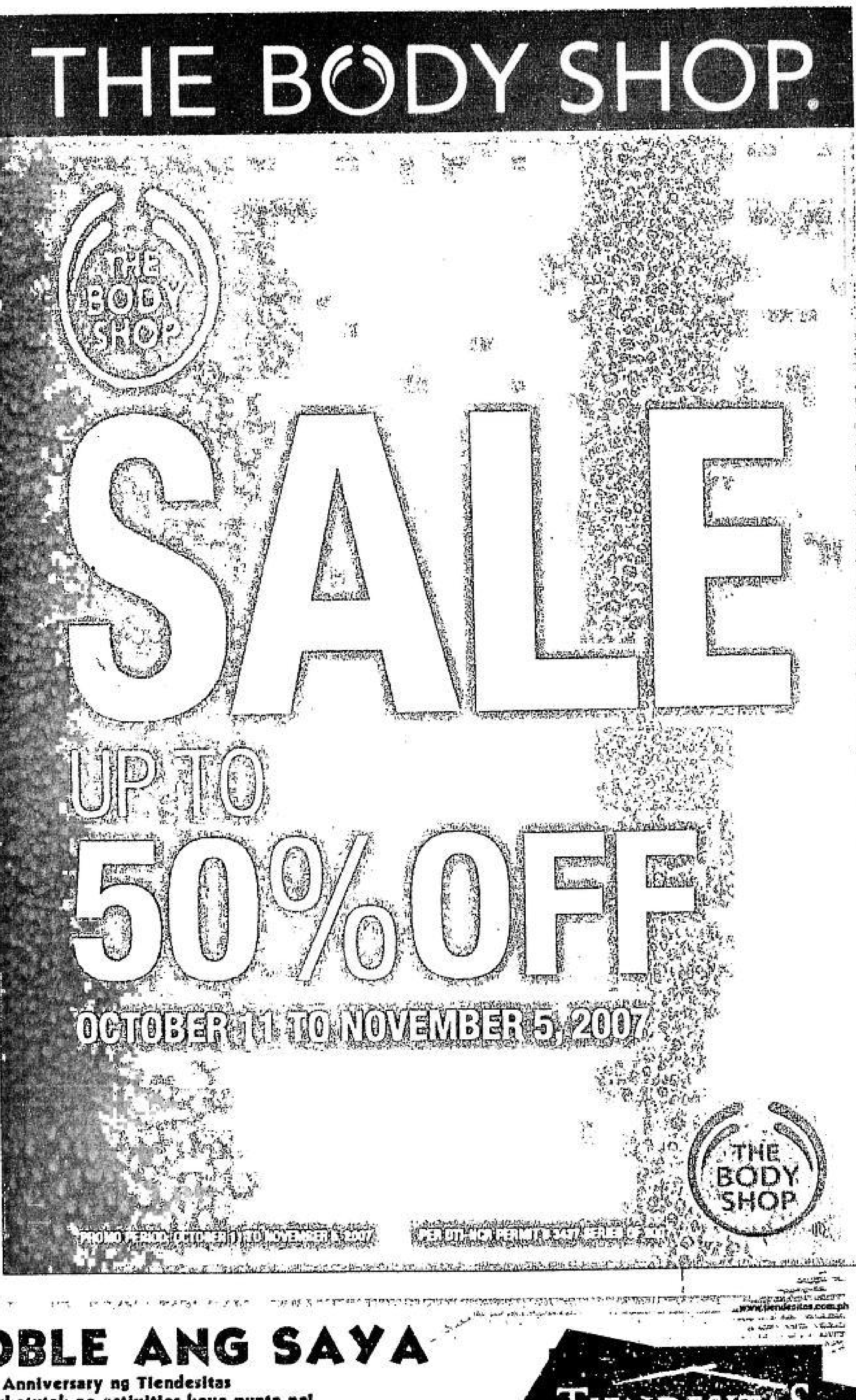

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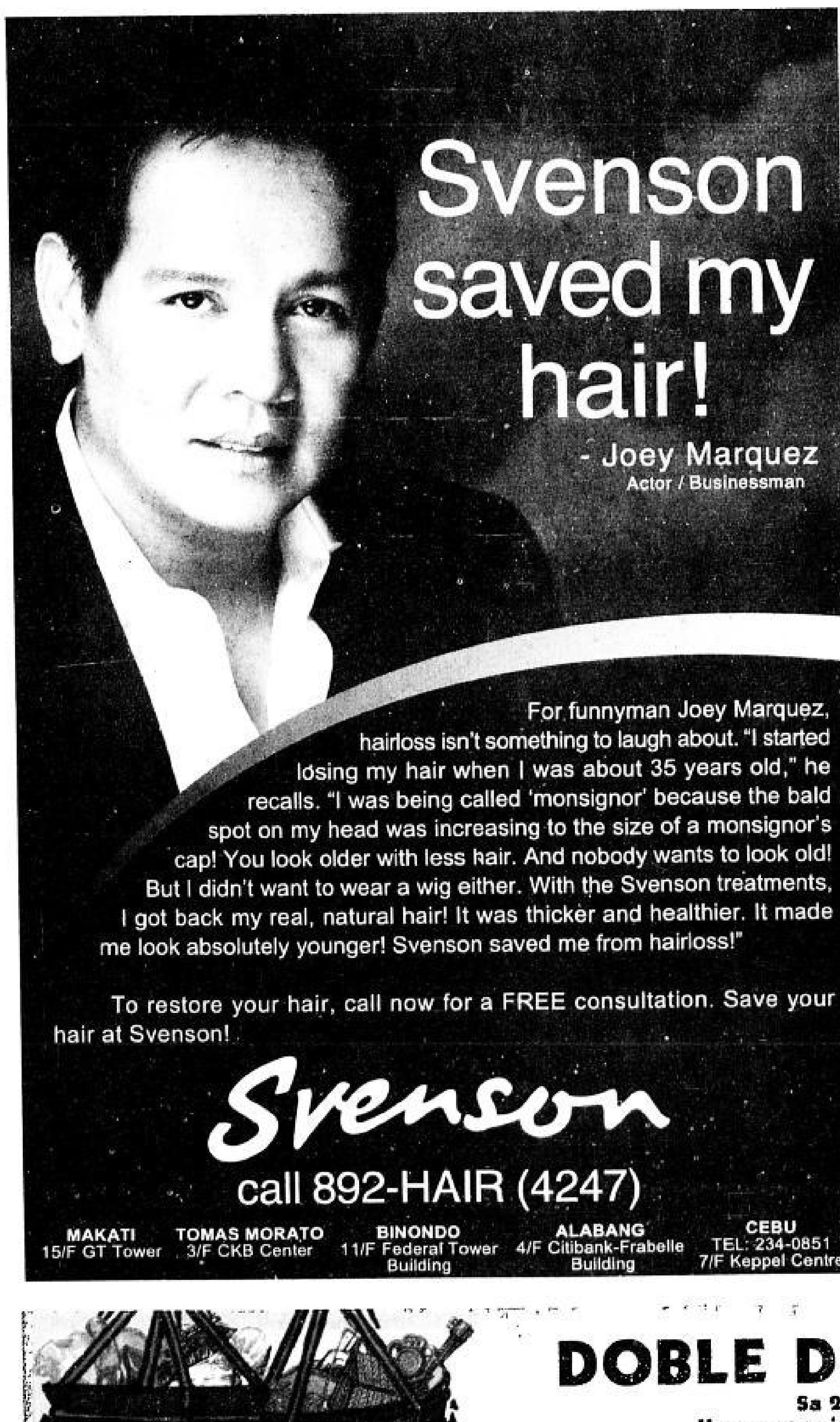

Svenson saved my hair!
- Joey Marquez
Actor / Businessman

For funnyman Joey Marquez, hairloss isn't something to laugh about. "I started losing my hair when I was about 35 years old," he recalls. "I was being called 'monsignor' because the bald spot on my head was increasing to the size of a monsignor's cap! You look older with less hair. And nobody wants to look old! But I didn't want to wear a wig either. With the Svenson treatments, I got back my real, natural hair! It was thicker and healthier. It made me look absolutely younger! Svenson saved me from hairloss!"

To restore your hair, call now for a FREE consultation. Save your hair at Svenson!

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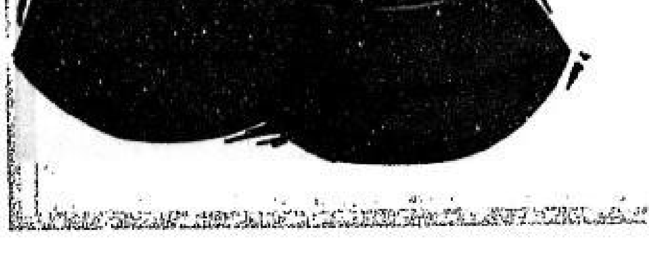

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October 28	Trick or Treat at Tiendesitas

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ANGEL AQUINO

I STUMBLED upon the poetry book "Bruise" by Ramon Sunico while shooting in a remote area in Teresa (Rizal). I borrowed it from a friend and never returned it. I recently found out that Bruise is the name of the lady he dedicated the book to. It's his term of endearment for her. A poem can tell a whole story in a few lines and Sunico's poems are about so many things—love, life, the Baguio earthquake. It's such a good read that I bought lots of copies and gave them to friends.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

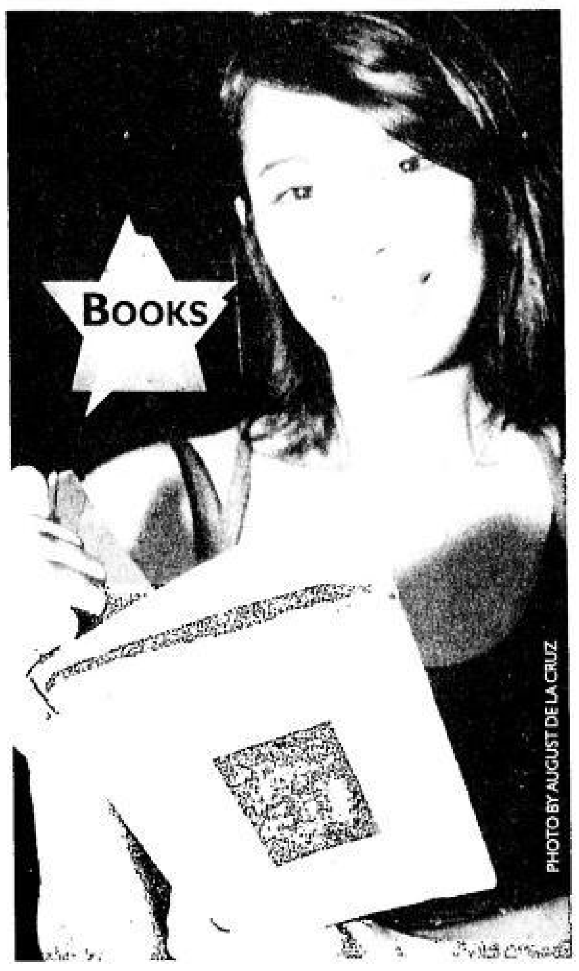

PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

TJ TRINIDAD

IN "KITCHEN Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly," the author, Anthony Bourdain, talks about how he got into cooking. *Ang ganda ng* story. It's the true account of the chef's life. When you read the book, you'll realize that it is actually a sub-culture in New York (where Buordain is a chef in the famed Les Halles). Since I also like to cook, I find a lot of the things he wrote very useful. It's a funny book; it's an easy read.

Before this, I was reading "The Rape of Nan King: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II." It's about the systematic killing of 300,000 Chinese by the Japanese in 1937. It gave me nightmares. I got to read only half of the book. It was horrible. It even had pictures. You would never think that one person is capable of doing those to another human being. I had to read something light after it.

Marinel R. Cruz
PHOTO BY RYAN RAMOS/ABS-CBN

ARIEL VILLASANTA

MY FAVORITE spot in the hou want some peace and quiet. I stay there all day, detached fro

FAVORITE NOOKS

WENN V. DERAMAS

ON MY days-off, I spend a lot of time in my mini-home theater, which is decorated with posters of my movies and TV shows. The home theater seats six and my friends enjoy watching movies here. Claudine Barretto and Piolo Pascual, stars of my old soap opera "Walang Kapalit," have been here. Candy Pangilinan and Eugene Domingo, in the cast of my latest movie "Apat Dapat, Dapat Apat," enjoy hanging out in this room, too. But I still make it a point to go to a movie house at least once or twice a week. Otherwise I get depressed.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY ROGER C

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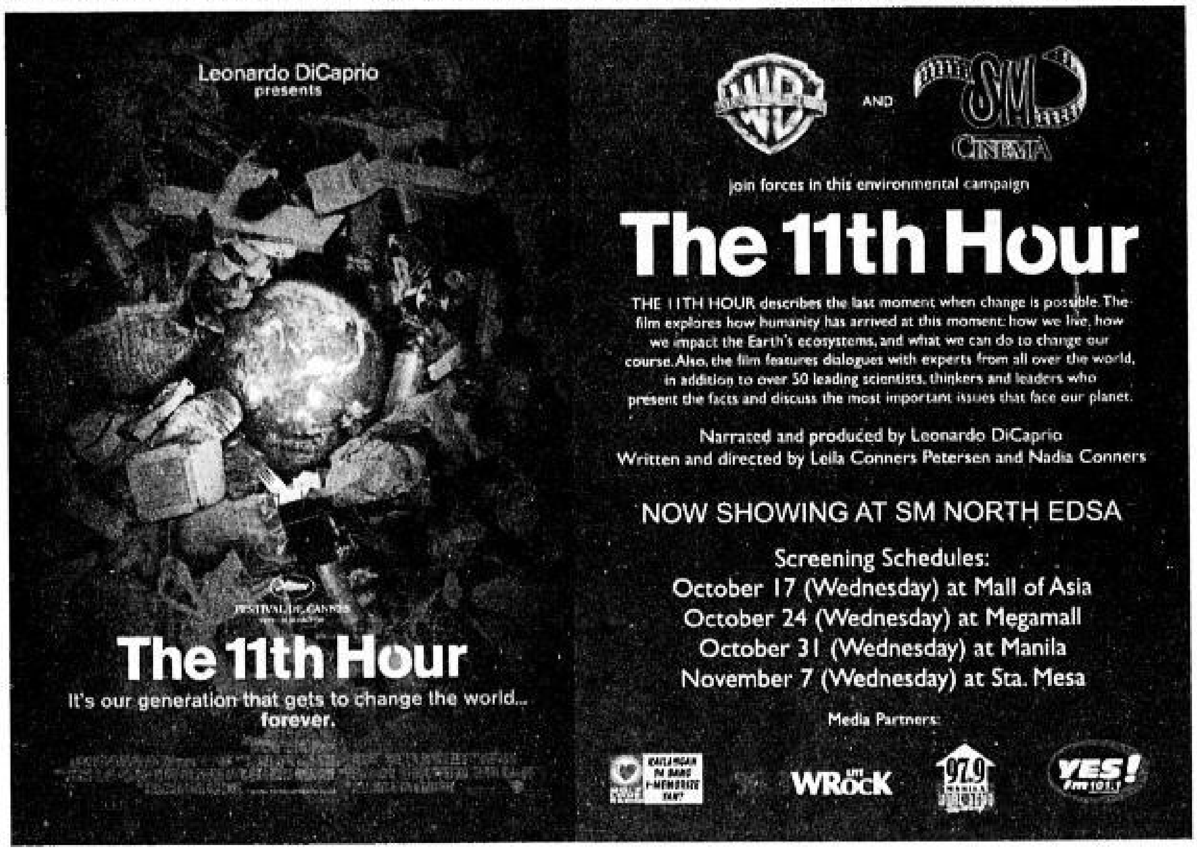

Leonardo DiCaprio presents
The 11th Hour
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AND
join forces in this environmental campaign
The 11th Hour
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THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

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Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

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1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 RETRIBUTION
3 STARDUST
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 ONE PERCENT FULL/I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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1 11TH HOUR
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 RETRIBUTION
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 STARDUST
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 ONE PERCENT FULL
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 STARDUST
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 ONE PERCENT FULL
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 RETRIBUTION
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 STARDUST
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 DECEMBER BOYS
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 STARDUST
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 WEDDING DAZE
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 RETRIBUTION
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 STARDUST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ONE PERCENT FULL
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 RETRIBUTION
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ONE PERCENT FULL
3 RETRIBUTION
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6 STARDUST
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 1408
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 WEDDING DAZE
11 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 SKINWALKERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 DAYWATCH
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 STARDUST
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 ONE PERCENT FULL
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 ONE PERCENT FULL

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 THE BRAVE ONE/ I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 STARDUST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ONE PERCENT FULL

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 STARDUST

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ONE PERCENT FULL
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 BLIND DATING/SKINWALKERS
6 DAYWATCH

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME/DAYWATCH

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 ONE PERCENT FULL
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 DAYWATCH
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 SKINWALKERS
3 STARDUST
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 ONE PERCENT FULL
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU/THE BRAVE ONE

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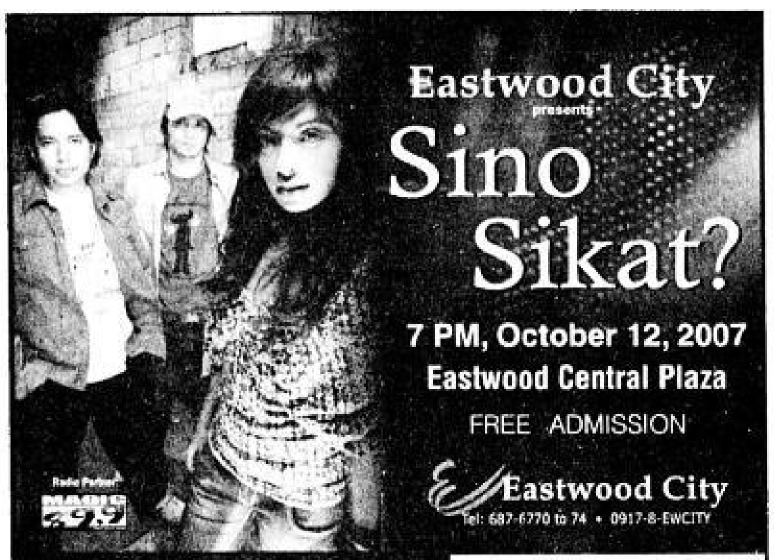
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA



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1	RESIDENT EVIL 3	3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00	R-13
2	STARDUST	2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10	G
3	KUNG FU FIGHTER	2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40	PG-13
4	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	3:50, 6:15, 8:40,11:00	G

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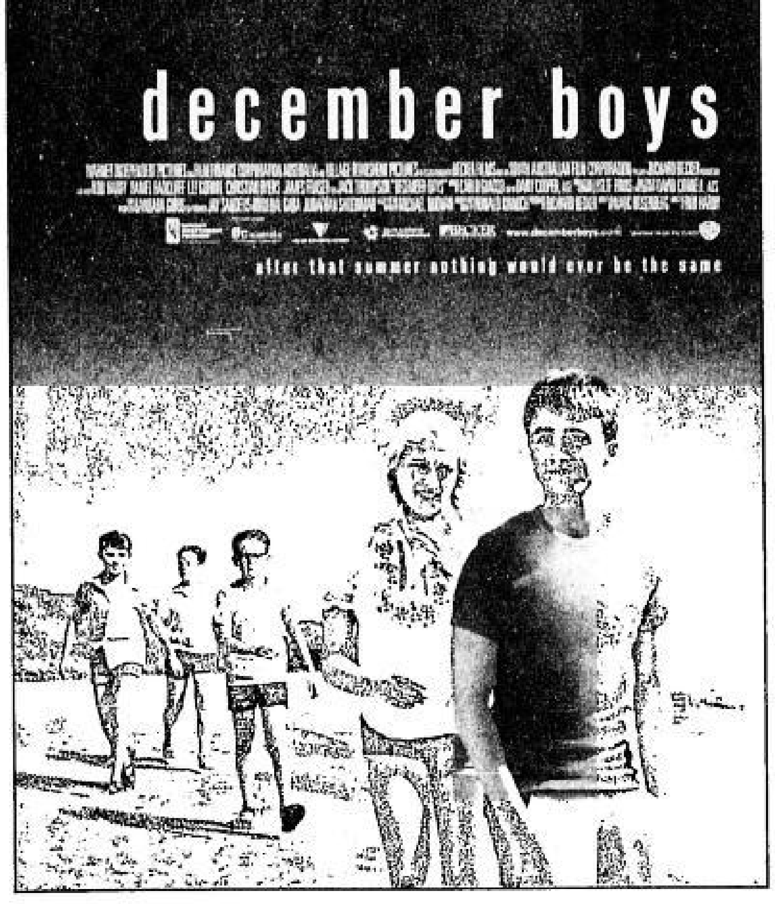
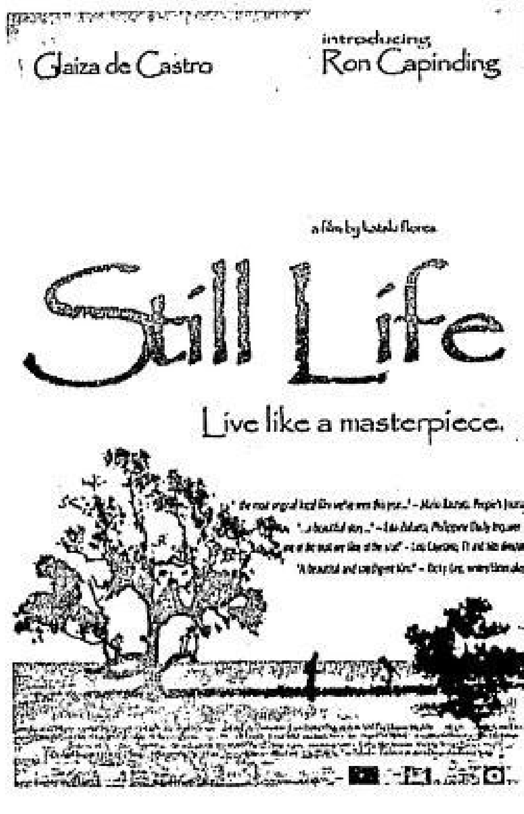
MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



december boys
after that summer nothing would ever be the same



a film by Katski Flores

STILL LIFE is the story of James Masino, a gifted Filipino painter who finds out he is afflicted with a paralyzing disease known as Guillain Barre Syndrome. Faced with a future where he can no longer paint, James leaves his life in the city and goes on a self-imposed exile to paint one last time, one final masterpiece. Unable to imagine a life without his art, he plans to kill himself once he finishes this painting. But Fate intervenes and derails this grand scheme when James learns that he must share this exile with Emma, a beautiful and mysterious young girl who at 19 has lived a life much too old for her years. But it is her courageous and unfailing optimism despite what life has dealt her that ultimately inspires James to realize a life beyond his canvass. Her search for meaning propels his journey towards hope and redemption.

watch this only at
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
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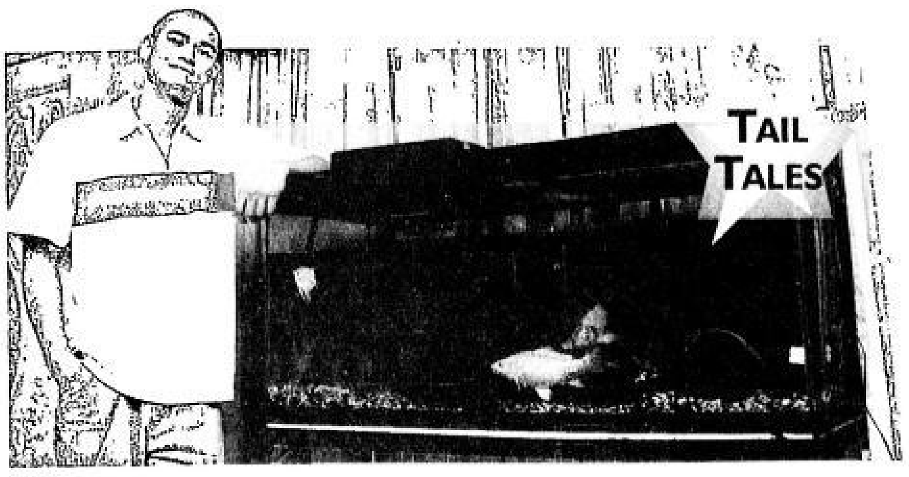
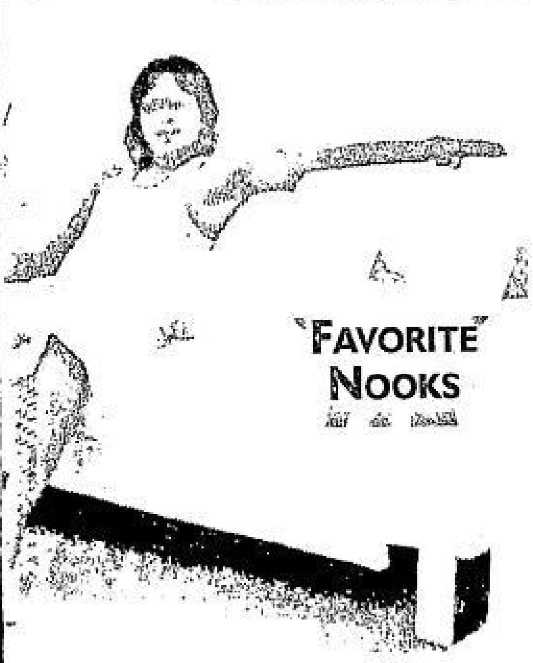


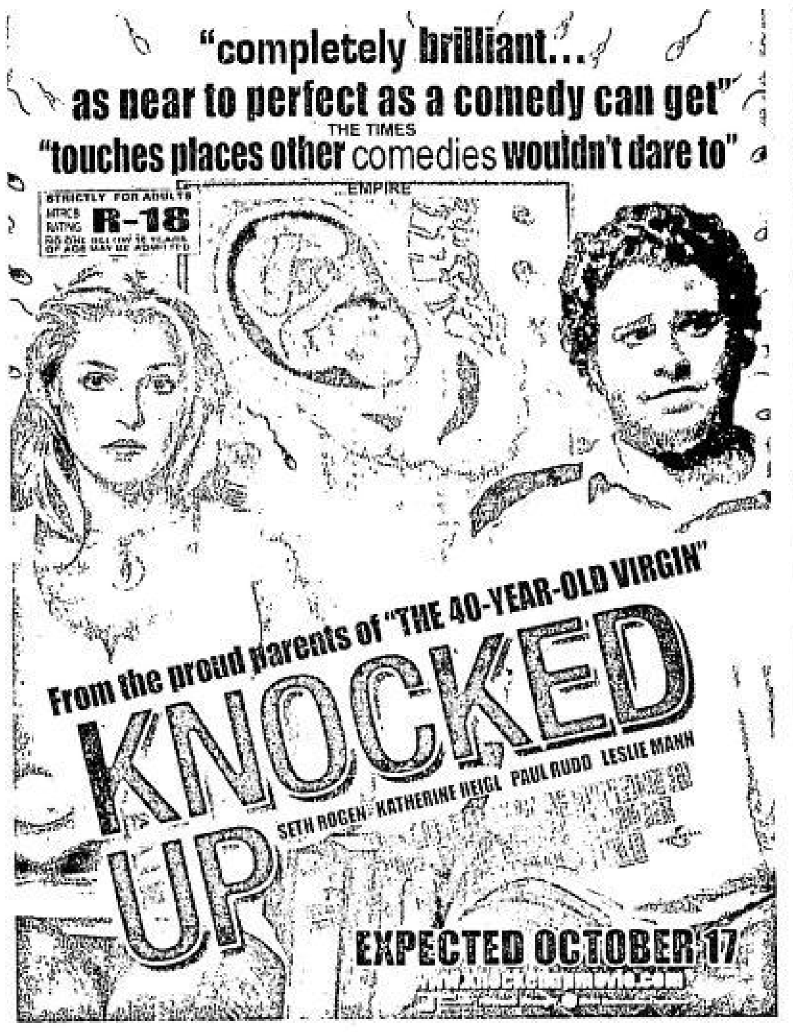
JAY-R

THERE are different kinds of fish in the aquarium in our living room—angel fish, janitor fish... also two turtles. My friend and housemate Jimmy (Muna) loves water creatures. There's more in his room upstairs—freshwater puffer fish and ghost knife fish. Since the koi have become too big, I've moved them to the pond near the gazebo in the garden. Jimmy and I, and another housemate, Kris (Lawrence), take turns feeding the fish.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS



e is the living room. This is where I go to if I
it on the couch and stare at the ceiling. I can
n the rest of the world. *Marinel R. Cruz*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Cinema	Film	Times	Rating
1	APAT DAPAT	11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40 6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35	GP
2	RETRIBUTION	11:30 , 1:50 , 4:10 6:30 , 8:50	PG-13

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Film	Times	Rating
3	RESIDENT EVIL // NO RESERVATIONS	10.50 , 12.45 , 3:10 6:00 , 8:20 , 10.35	R-13
4	KUNG FU FIGHTER	12:05 , 2:40 , 5:15 7:50 , 10:25	PG-13
5	STARDUST	10:45 , 1:45 , 4:40 7:35 , 10:30	GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

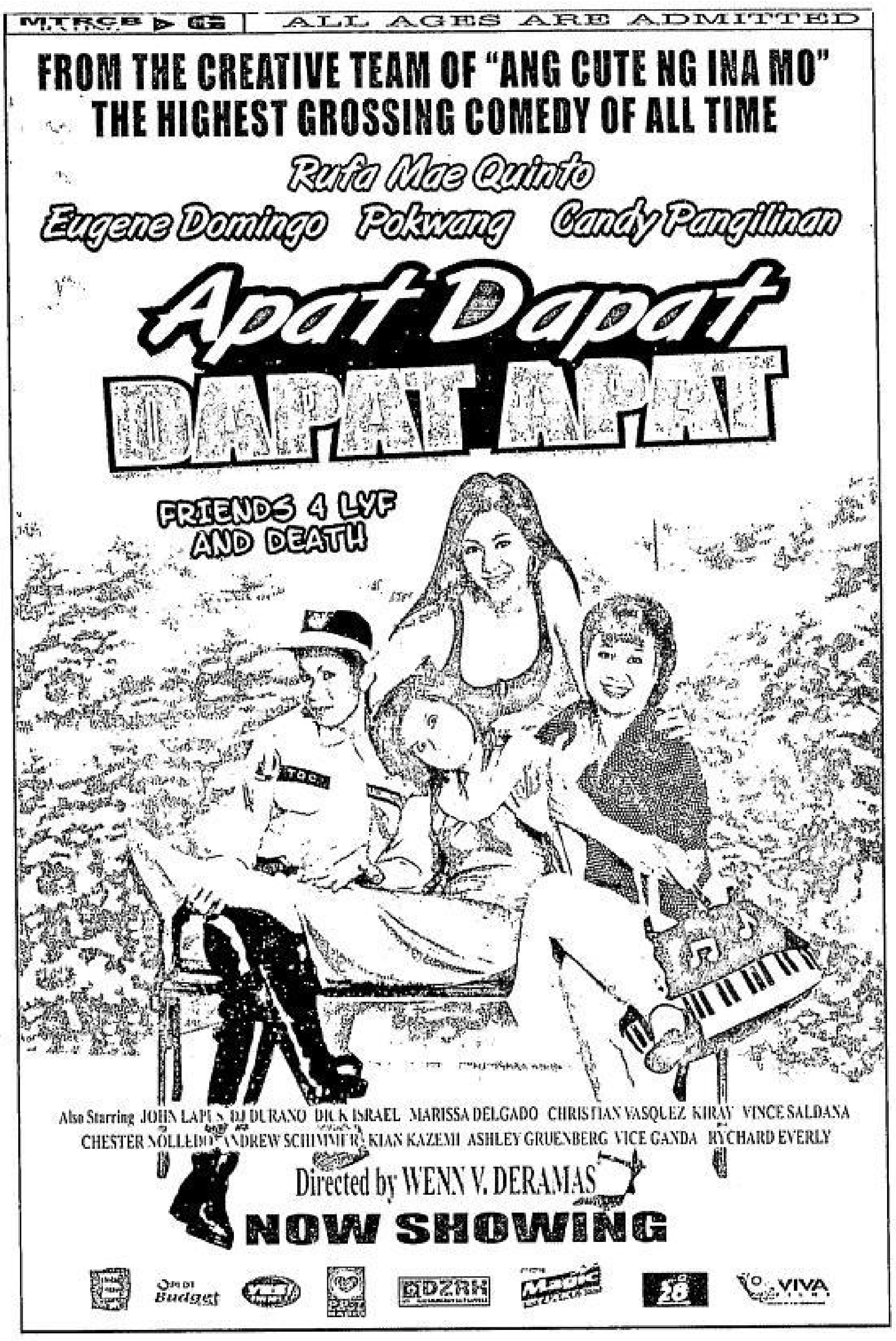
MUSIC MUSEUM

Date	Artist	Time
October 12 & 13, 2007	Apo Hiking Society	8:00 PM
October 18 & 19, 2007	Jericho Rosales	8:00 PM
October 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
October 27, 2007	Jonathan Badon	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Date	Artist	Time
Oct. 10 , 17 , 24 & 31	Carrudo Classico	8:00 PM
October 26, 2007	John Lesaca	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116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FROM THE CREATIVE TEAM OF "ANG CUTE NG INA MO"
THE HIGHEST GROSSING COMEDY OF ALL TIME
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Eugene Domingo Pokwang Candy Pangilinan
Apat Dapat DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH
Also Starring JOHN LAPUS DJ DURANO DICK ISRAEL MARISSA DELGADO CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ KIRAY VINCE SALDANA CHESTER NOLLEDO ANDREW SCHIMMER KIAN KAZEMI ASHLEY GRUENBERG VICE GANDA RYCHARD EVERLY
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NOW, HE WILL TAKE ON THE MOST POWERFUL AND MOST EVIL IMMORTAL OF ALL.
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GOOD VS EVIL
ONE FINAL BATTLE
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RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:40	STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20	ONE PERCENT FULL 12:30 / 2.45 / 5.00 / 7.15 / 9.30	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 12:10 / 4:50 / 9:30	NO RESERVATION 2:30 / 7:10	STARDUST 12:00 / 2.55 / 5:50 / 8:45

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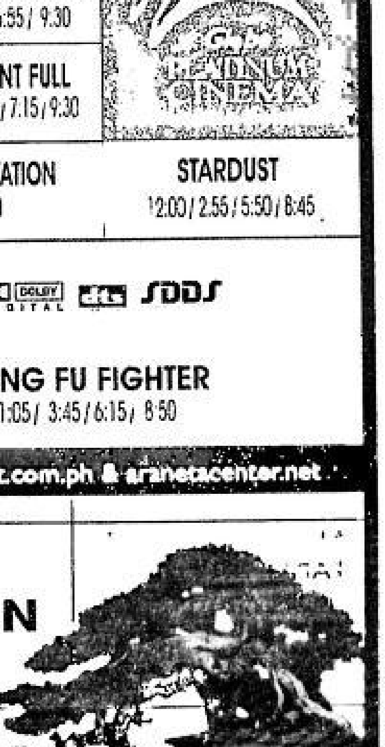
RETRIBUTION 12:20 R4 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40	KUNG FU FIGHTER 1:05 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:50

For reservations, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net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Formal Opening of BPSI Bonsai Open '07 and Announcement of Winners
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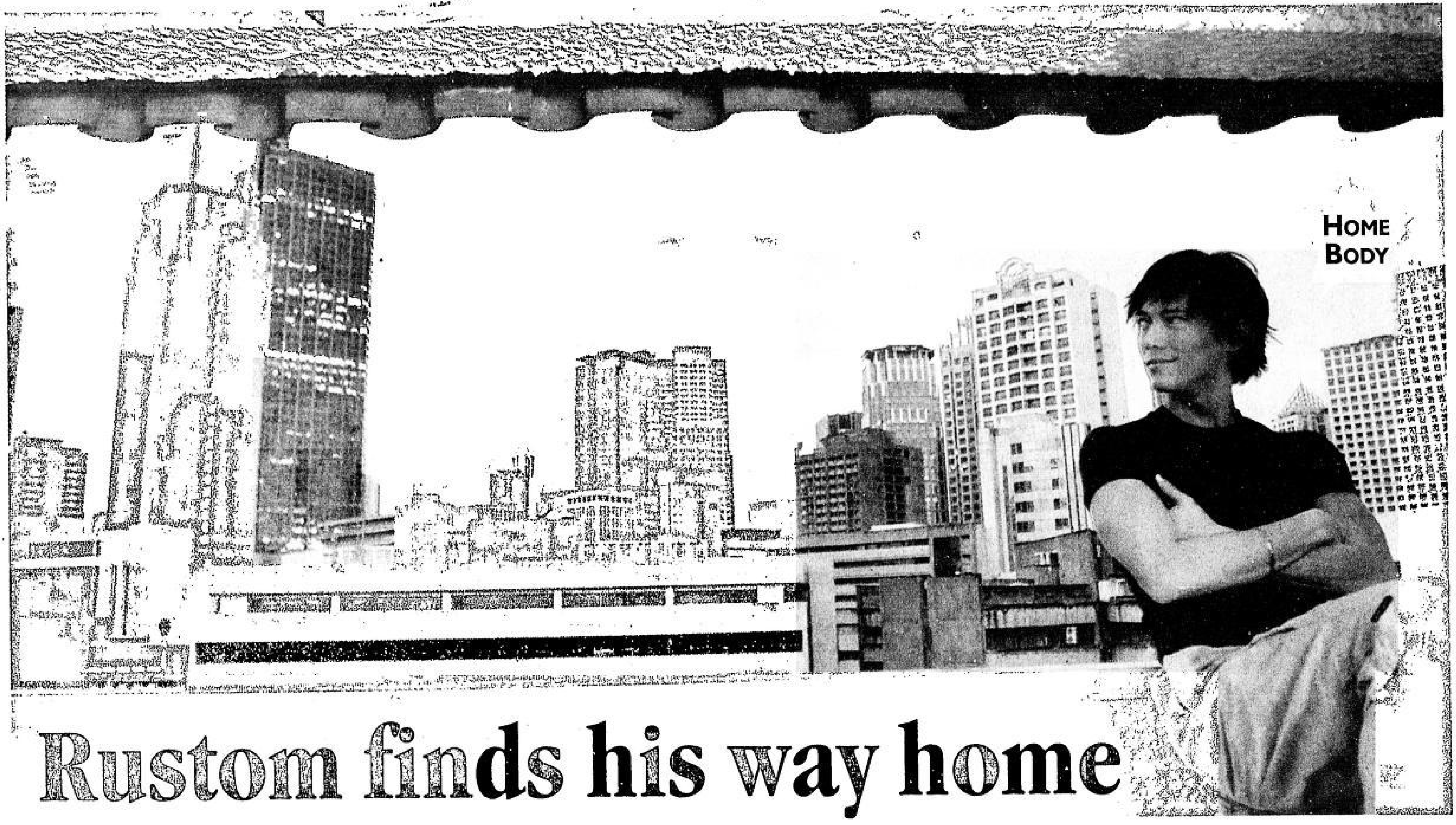
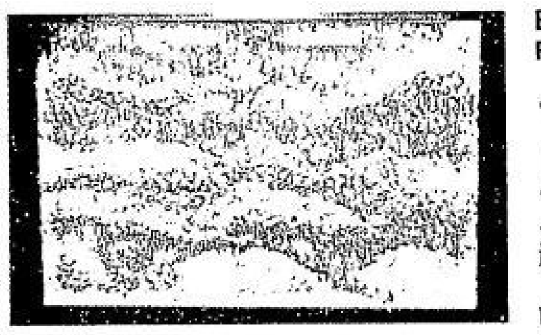


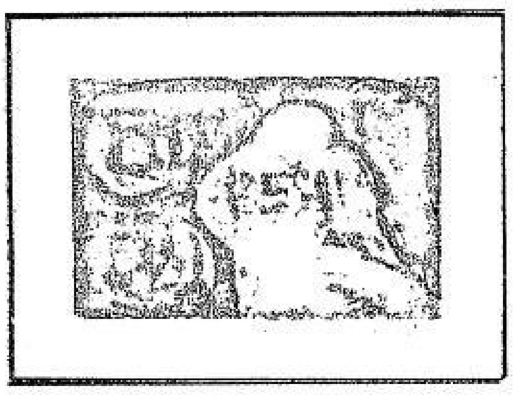
HOME BODY

Rustom finds his way home

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan



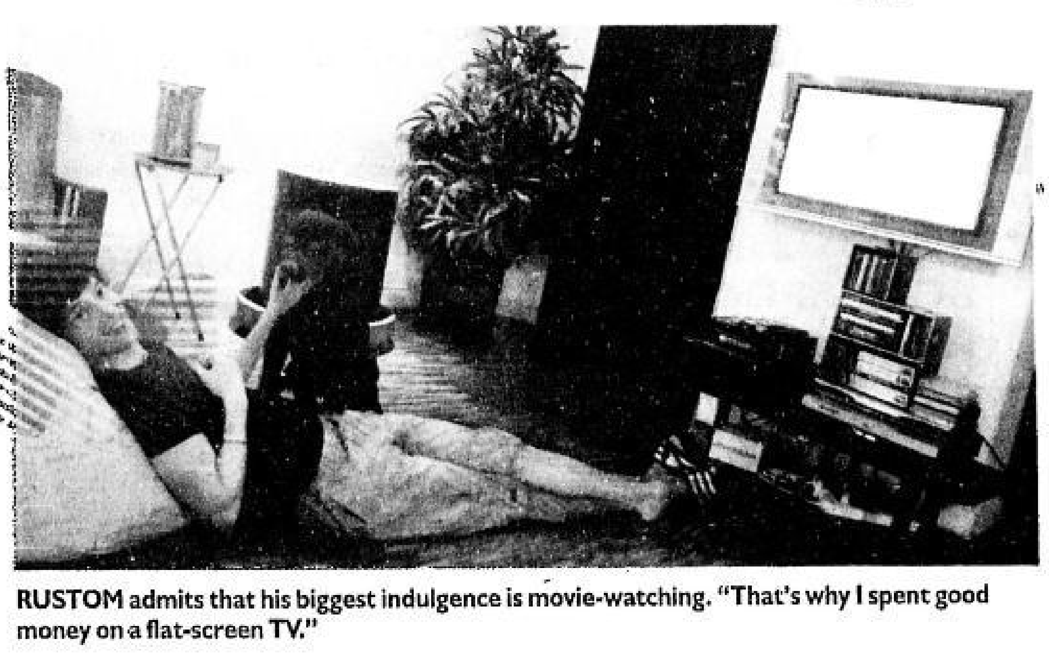
STILL life by actress Princess Punzalan



"COCOON," by Rommel Padilla, was inspired by Rustom.

PREPARING breakfast in his kitchen with a red wall

HE HAS set up a mini-office at home.



RUSTOM admits that his biggest indulgence is movie-watching. "That's why I spent good money on a flat-screen TV."

BEFORE HE FOUND THIS pad in Makati, actor Rustom Padilla had been on the road … tirelessly. Like a gypsy, searching for the elusive and ethereal.

From 2002 to 2005, he stayed in the United States, where he studied filmmaking at the University of California in Los Angeles. Prior to that, he spent half a year in Singapore, where he starred in the TV drama, "Paradise."

When he returned from UCLA, he sold his old Parañaque house to his sister.

With dispatch.

"The house is conservative European. The pieces of furniture were too heavy," he explains. "It wasn't me."

In contrast, this condo unit captures his personality, he insists. "I did the interiors with the help of some friends. But I chose everything, from the furniture to the colors."

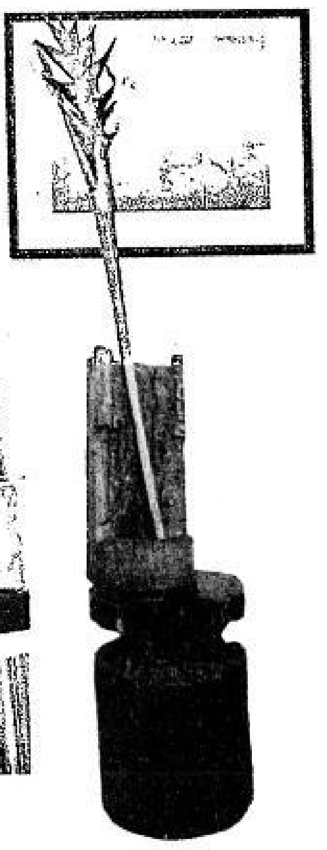
And a burst of colors, it is!

The living room is painted in a cheerful yellow. "For identity," he notes. "It inspires the mood I like."

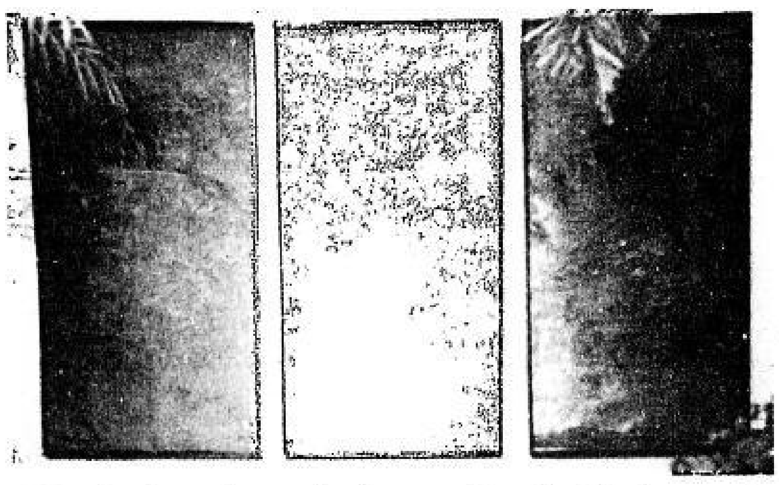
The kitchen has a fiery red wall. "Red is for creativity, and signifies heat."

For the bedroom, he picked the colors of the sea. "Light blue and green. Very soothing."

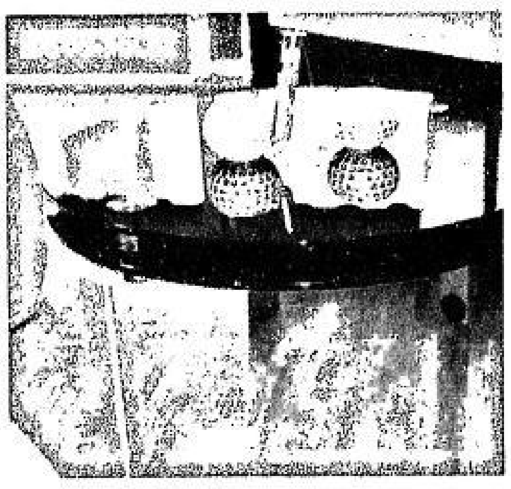
He came across the unusual color combinations while perusing interior design books and magazines. "I read that colors made a lot of difference as far as creating certain moods for your home."



DIFFERENT wood pieces from Baguio, put together to form a vase for this lone bird of paradise.



THIS triptych was about to be thrown out by a friend; Rustom saved it from the trash bin.



MODERN table and decor from a Makati mall

"Instinctive," he describes his design style and, in a nutshell, his overall concept as "fusion."

"I combined modern with Filipino pieces," he points out.

While most of the modish décor are from Dimensione, the Pinoy pieces are from … here, there, everywhere.

Mom Eva Cariño contributed the old water pump displayed in the lanai. "She got it from the province (Nueva Ecija). I'd like to turn that *poso* into a fountain with a pond someday."

Also in the lanai is a teakwood bench that he bought in Vigan. "It was originally from Ifugao."

The miniature harp in the terrace is also from Vigan.

He also turned old rice grinders from Baguio into a lamp and a vase.

In his former home, the vase was used as a stool, he recounts. "By combining it with other wooden pieces from Baguio, I turned it into a vase for the bird of paradise."

The dining table and native chair in the living room are from second-hand shops in Bangkal, Makati.

Of course, his Urian and Gawad Tanglaw trophies occupy a place of honor in his mini-office.

Apart from a laptop, the only high-tech indulgence in the house is a flat-screen TV. "I spent good money on it because I love watching movies."

Rustom, who recently joined the cast of GMA 7's "La Vendetta," owns a DVD collection of movies from around the globe: US classics like "Sunset Boulevard" and "The Godfather," as well as French ("The Piano Teacher" and "La Femme Nikita") and Spanish/Latin titles ("Y Tu Mama Tambien," "Amores Perros").

He also filled the place with artworks.

A still life in the kitchen is by friend Princess Punzalan.

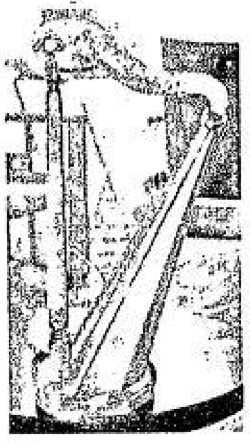
In the bedroom is a piece called "Cocoon"—painted by brother Rommel Padilla. "He said he thought of me when he painted it. But he did that before I came out (admitted being gay) on 'Pinoy Big Brother.'"

His brother Robin has also visited in the condo.

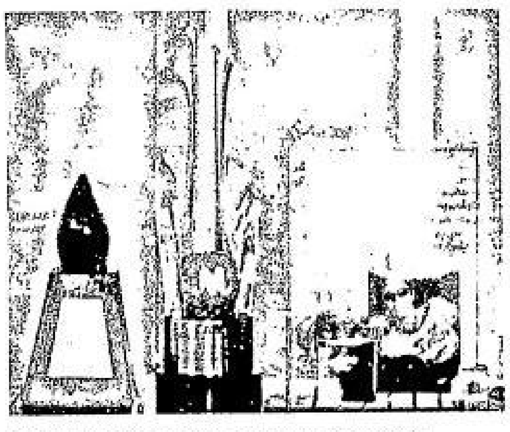
"Rommel, Robin and I had lunch here one Sunday, before our guesting on 'Showbiz Central,'" Rustom relates. "Robin said he liked the place, that he feels relaxed here."

Does Rustom feel just as comfy? Has he finally found home?

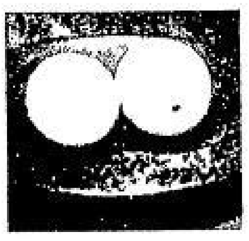
"Home is where the heart is," he quips, without missing a beat. "Here or abroad, I feel at home. Wherever I end up, I want to feel relaxed and comfortable."



MINIATURE harp from Vigan

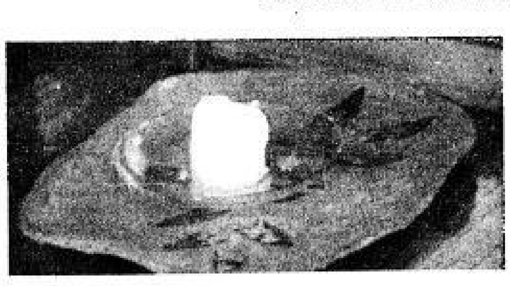


INDUSTRY awards and pictures of his pet, Iman, occupy a place of honor in his mini-office.



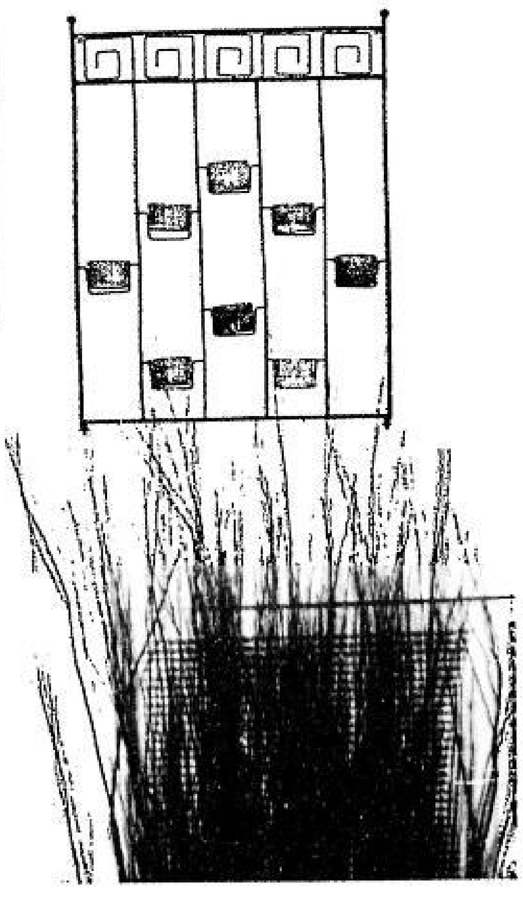
OSTRICH eggs from Boracay adorn the dining table

IN BED with his Urian and Gawad Tanglaw trophies.



SCENTED candle rests on a plate by potter Ugo Bigyan.

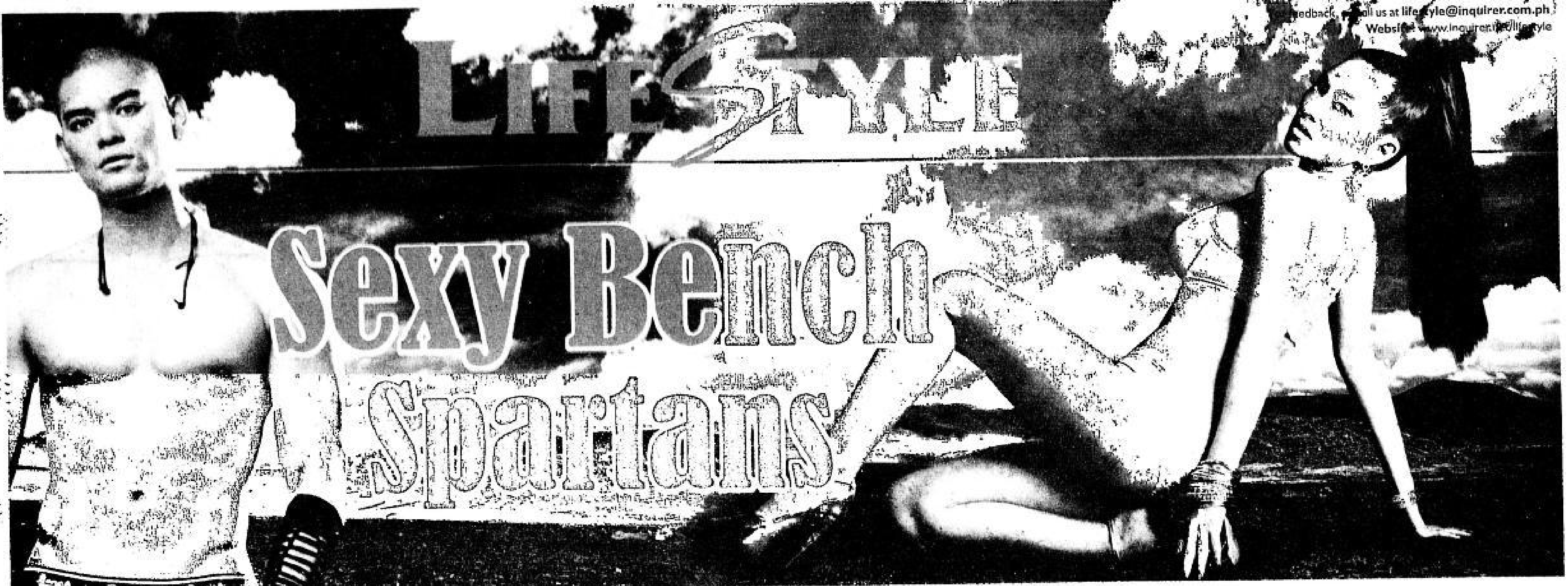
STONE fountain topped with colorful crystals



FRESH horsetail hides the airconditioning unit under candleholder that he bought from a Makati mall.

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

LifeStyle



Sexy Bench Spartans

Bench is at it again. After highly successful campaigns showing Pussycat doll Nicole Scherzinger and Superbad Jon Mullaly in their Bench Body billboards, the retail giant is one again tickling the public's fancy. This time, Bench brings together a barrage of their sexy endorsers in a sizzling Bench Body campaign, inspired by the hugely successful movie, 300.

Getting inspiration from the movie 300, a story of 300 Spartans who fought it out against an army of over one million soldiers - a fictionalized retelling of the Battle of the Thermopylae, the team set out to shoot the roster of endorsers against highly dynamic imagery. It was the perfect background for the sizzling Bench Body numbers the stars-slash-models donned for the shoot.

Shot by ace lensman Ronnie Salvacion, with creative direction by stylist extraordinaire Noel Manapat, the photos highlight the Bench endorsers' hot physiques clad in sexy Bench Body underwear. "We kept the highlight on the endorser's physiques, maintained the heroic attitude," Noel explains, "but used different styling and lighting techniques to create otherworldly images that best depict the product and the people who wear it."

"The graphic quality of the movie 300 was the inspiration, with the characters' ripped bodies set against the visually arresting backgrounds," Noel further points out. "As an inspiration, it provided the starting point for us to interpret our own original version, creating characters to suit the personality of the models, as we did not want to

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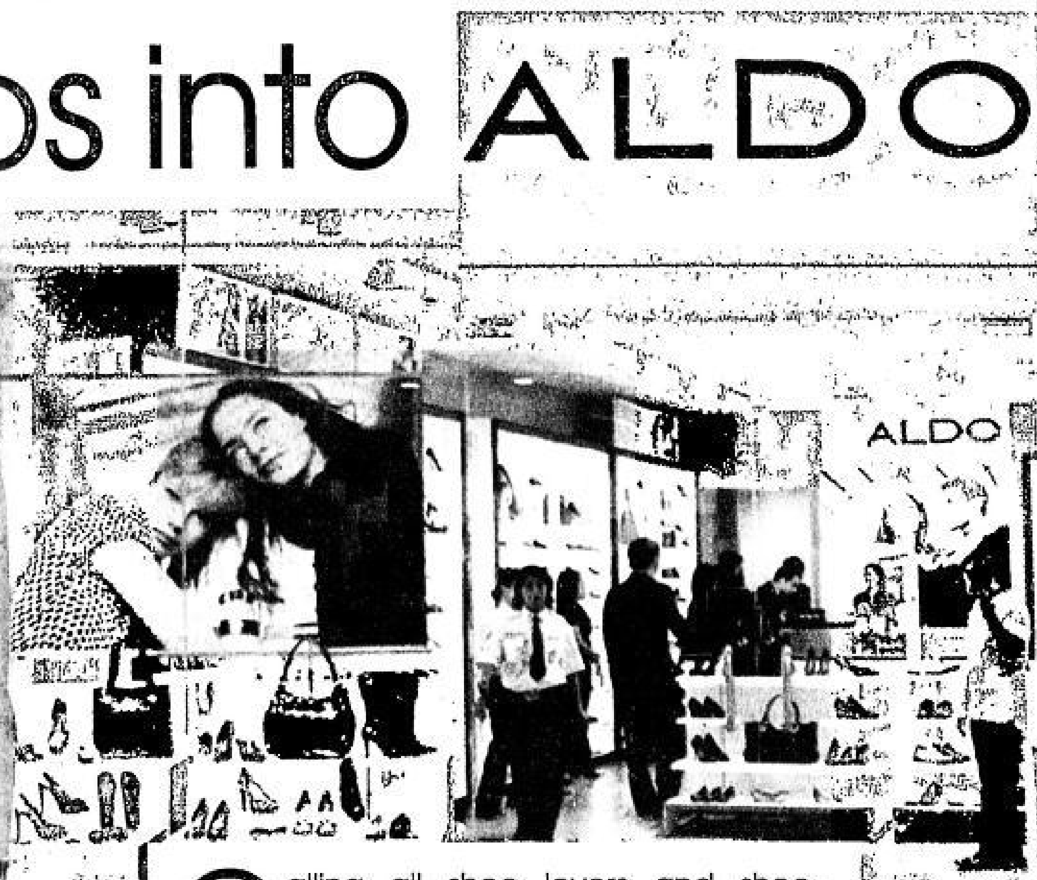
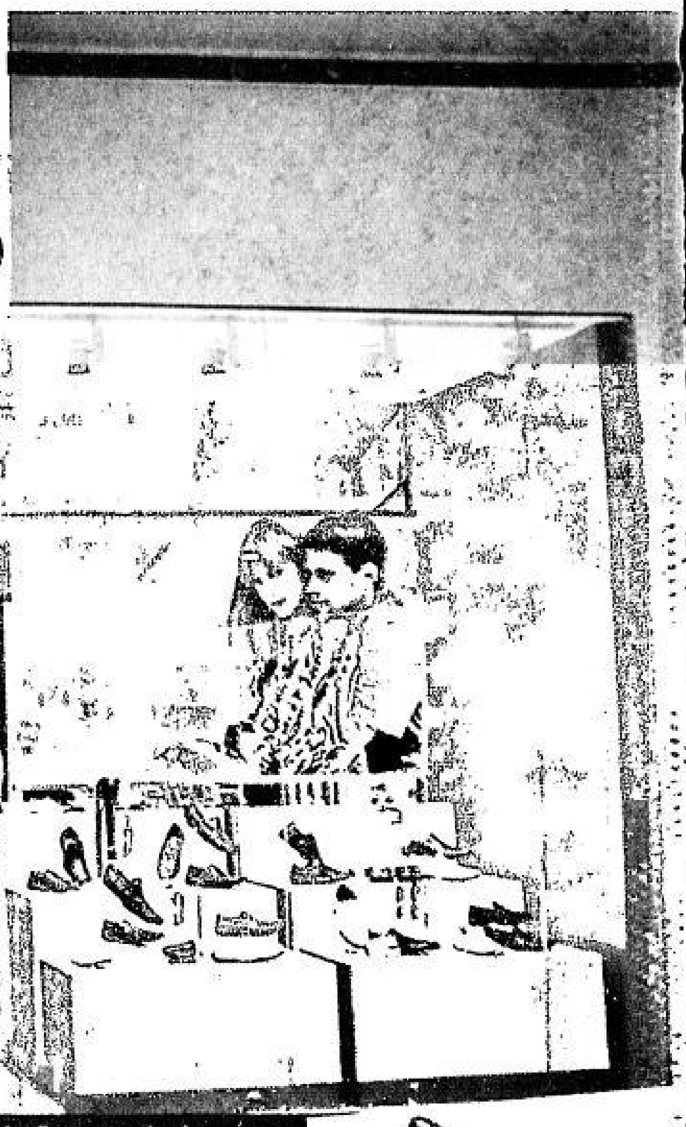
Manila's fashionable set steps into ALDO

'Aldo stays a step ahead with the total offering of our collections. We carry the latest trends in ladies' and men's footwear, as well as fashion handbags and accessories. The diversity of our range covers all styles and looks from dressy, to sport, to city/casual. We definitely have something for everyone'

RICA Paralejo adores the cute shoe colors that ALDO offers.





ALDO opens its first store in the Philippines at the Block, SM North Edsa.

Calling all shoe lovers and shoe-aholics, there's yet another reason to celebrate with the arrival of a new shopping haven that is taking the metropolis by storm. Enter ALDO, a line of high quality fashion footwear known for their trend-setting leather and patent shoes and accessories is finally here. Originally from Montreal, Canada, ALDO has come a long way since its early concessionaire days. ALDO has also invaded the streets of New York, London, Sidney, Lisbon, Dubai and Singapore. It's latest stop? Bustling Metro Manila.

A new acquisition of Suyen Corporation, ALDO opened its premiere store at The Block, SM North Edsa. When the clock struck noon, the boutique's doors opened and shoe aficionados and passers by alike flocked in to browse through ALDO's walls displaying the latest shoe styles for both men and women. Even the who's who in Philippine showbiz could not resist. The likes of Diether Ocampo, Jake Cuenca, Francine Prieto, Angelica Panganiban, and Rafael Rosell were simply enamored by the variety of shoes and colors there were at the shop, that they could not resist trying on these fashionable pieces. Richard Gomez favored ALDO's accessories, while the Be Bench Model Search winner Regine and fellow finalists Michelle and Kristine went straight for the patent pumps and hip flats.

While some seem to think this is just your ordinary shoe store, Sebastien Gagnon, director of international sales and operations, who flew in for the store's debut opening begs to differ and explains, "ALDO offers a fun, upbeat environment. The product is always on-trend, and new styles are arriving on a regular basis. The collection has fashionable inspiration taken from the numerous trends found around the world, giving consumers a global perspective on fashion. The shopfit is modern and fresh, and the merchandising is very approachable."

As far as the latest trends in shoe styles are concerned, Sebastien explains, "ALDO stays a step ahead with the total offering of our collections. We carry the latest trends in ladies' and men's footwear, as well as fashion handbags and accessories. The diversity of our range covers all styles and looks from dressy, to sport, to city/casual. We definitely have something for everyone!"

ALDO's store has that inviting feel to it that allows guests to effortlessly browse through racks without being overwhelmed by the multitude of colors and diverse colors. Catering more towards a lifestyle than a demographic, the 'young, stylish, and going places' are sure to find a pair that suits them - for both men and women alike! At the store's opening alone, men were just as interested to try on their most favored pair in the store.

ALDO not only carries shoes, but offers accessories that go in perfect tandem with their footwear offerings. Whether it is to find the perfect pair of shades that accentuate your face shape, a statement dog tag necklace or metallic head band that adds oomph to any get up, ALDO has become a pleasurable shopping experience that will make you want to come back for more.

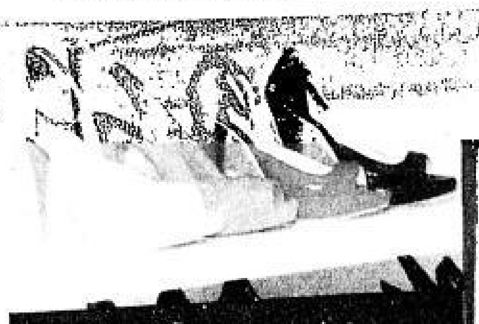
ALDO is now open at The Block, SM North Edsa and Power Plant Mall but will soon be open throughout Metro Manila. Helping to make this possible is their franchisee Suyen Corporation, who has got grand plans for ALDO this year alone. Watch out for their shops in Bonifacio High Street, Robinson's Galleria, Trinoma, and Shangri-La Mall in the next few months.

With this store's passion to offer the best shopping experience and quality, trendy style offerings together with Suyen Corporation's unprecedented support, it is only a matter of time before ALDO becomes the IT boutique for shoes and accessories in the Philippines.

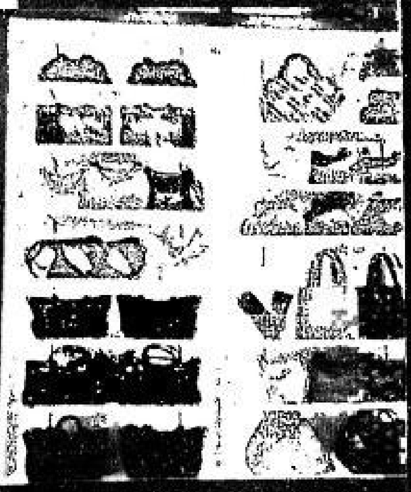
ANIMAL print peep-toe pumps for the trend-setting woman.

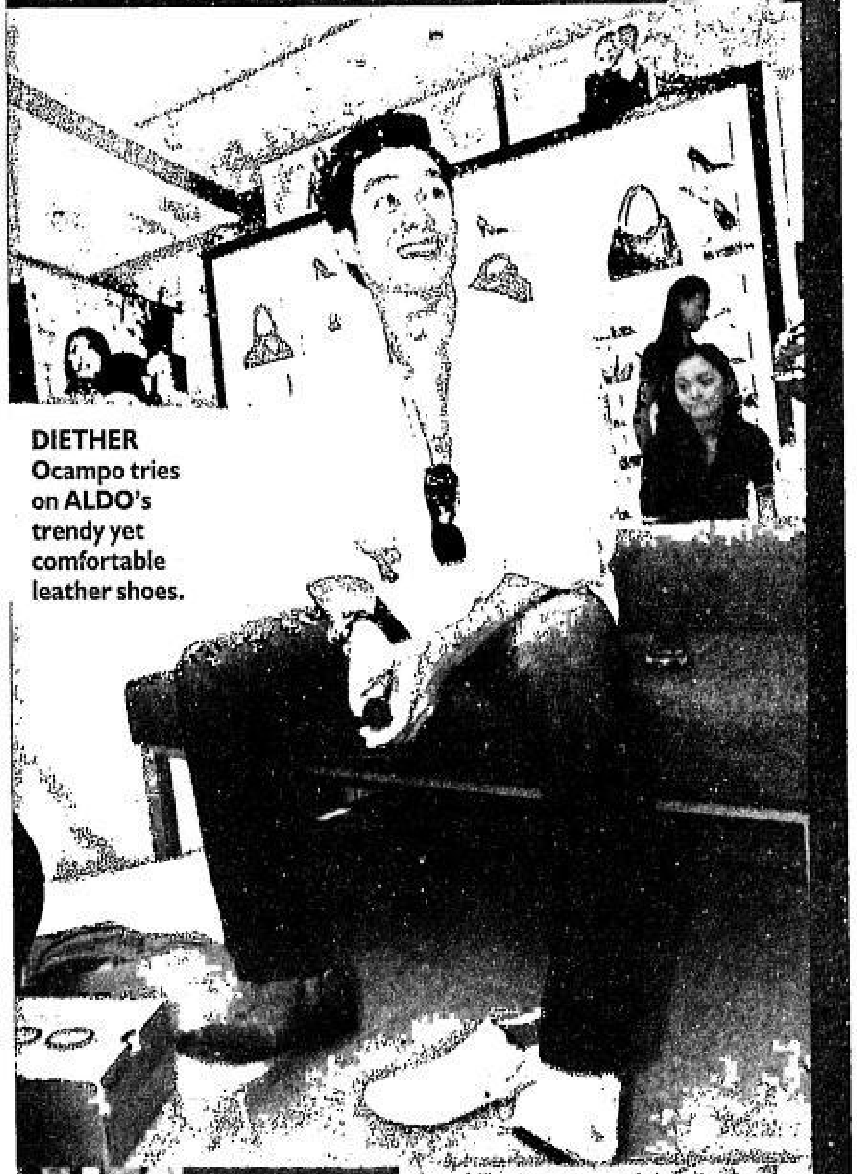
GRAPHIC print flats by ALDO for that preppy yet casual look.

STYLISH and corporate leather wear for men at ALDO.



COLORFUL patent peep-toe platform heels by ALDO.





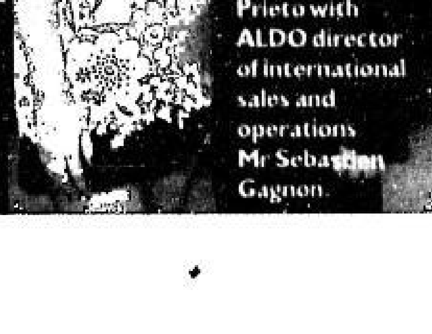
DIETHER Ocampo tries on ALDO's trendy yet comfortable leather shoes.

SEBASTIEN Gagnon, Angelica Panganiban and Danny Chien.

RICHARD Gomez tries on stylish shades.

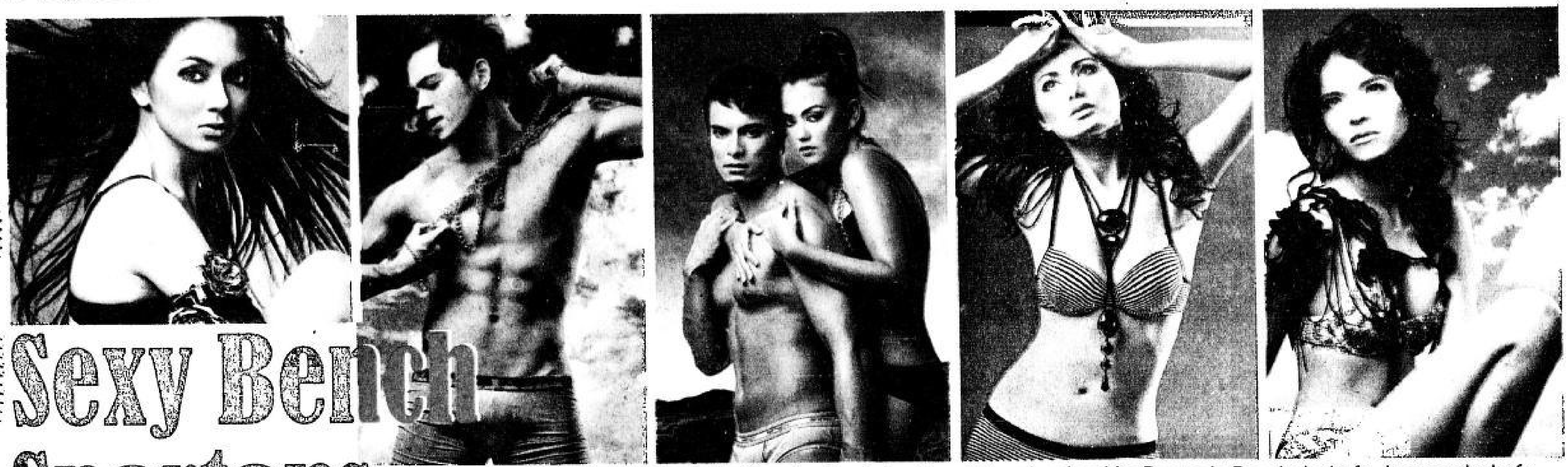
JAKE Cuenca shows his favorite ALDO design.

BE Bench Model Search winner Regine and finalists Michelle and Kristine are all smiles with Richard Gomez at ALDO.



FRANCINE Prieto with ALDO director of international sales and operations Mr Sebastien Gagnon.

ELLE D
with AL
operati
manage
Asia and
Pacific
Danny Chi



Sexy Bench Spartans

'Catch these celebrities in their hottest best, clad in Bench Body briefs, boxer briefs, and ladies' undergarments in sexy lace, full floral prints, and crown designs'

copy the movie imagery."

And for this ambitious project, Bench made sure to gather some of their best. Among the sexy "Bench Spartans" featured in the campaign are comedienne/TV host Rufa Mae Quinto, model/actor Bruce Quebral, actresses Alessandra de Rossi, Francine Prieto and Angelica Panganiban, model/basketball player Doug Kramer, actors Jake Cuenca, Marco Alcaraz, and Rafael Rossel, models AJ Winkler, Don Mendoza and Jon Mullaly, and RnB singer Jay-R. Also in the cast are the newest Bench models, the winners of the Be Bench Model Search. Regine Angeles and Carlo Guevarra.

Catch these celebrities in their hottest best, clad in Bench Body briefs, boxer briefs, and ladies' undergarments in sexy lace, full floral prints, and crown designs, mesh on mesh combination briefs, striped garter briefs and bright colored underwear in shades of punchy colors of orange, blue and pink.

For your own sexy Bench Body number, visit their stores located at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Ermita, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Manila, SM Baguio, SM Lucena, SM Centerpoint, SM Fairview, SM Sucat, SM Pampanga, SM Cavite, Alabang Town Center, and Glorietta.

natural story
THE FACE SHOP

FREE Nail Polish*

with every single-reciept purchase of P1,000
Available at all THE FACE SHOP stores nationwide from October 8 - November 4, 2007
*Free item will be given at the counter upon payment

Alabang Town Center . Ayala Cebu . Bonifacio High [illegible] . Citywalk 2, Eastwood . Glorietta 3 . Power Plant Mall
Robinson's Galleria . Shangri-la Mall . Shopping [illegible]ade, Greenhills . SM Mall of Asia . SM Megamall
SM Pampanga . SM Southm[illegible] . SM Bac[illegible] . SM North Edsa . The Block . The Podium . TriNoma
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 4828 SERIES OF 2007

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bench/

How to Avail:
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- Customer fills out an Application Form
- Customer shall claim the Lifestyle Card where they applied.

www.benchtm.com

Overlap ruffled blouse with belt r.o.
Knee-length non-denim short w/ Det Combi
2nd Floor

Fatigue bubble dress with ribbon

up to
50% OFF
on selected items

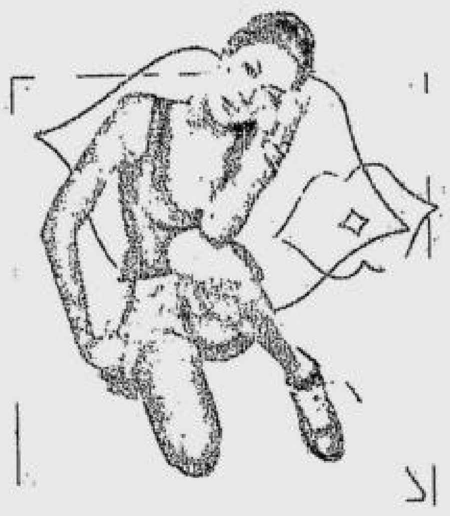
2nd Floor

up to
20% OFF
on selected items

Neorah Haltered Dress
2nd Floor

2nd Floor

up to
50% OFF
n selected items



up to
50% OFF
n selected items

2nd Floor

up to
50% OFF
on selected items

2nd Floor

[redacted]

Men's vest & polo long sleeves
Men's slacks

Upper Ground Floor

bench/
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50% OFF
on selected items

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I Just Wanna

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3-DAY SALE

Oct. 19,20,21

"GREAT DEALS
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MALLWIDE!!!"

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APL of the Black Eyed Peas
human

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ITTI

F-0238
high fashion
sandals

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CELINE
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50% OFF
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Upper Ground Floor

pd
primadonna

Fun peeptoes

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2nd Floor

Ashlee Simpson
Cali Gear
SKECHERS

FUSION

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style of the future

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SAVE UP TO 20% OFF

MERCURY
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PENTHOUSE
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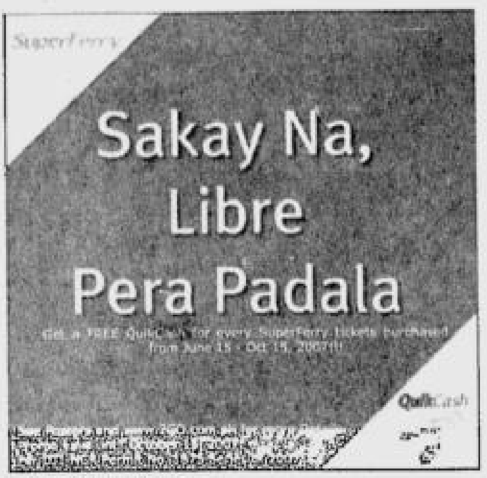
HILLCREST

Posturepedic

MEGAMALL 4th Flr
NORTH EDSA 3rd Flr
SOUTHMALL 2nd Flr
BACOOR 2nd Flr
CEBU 2nd Flr

2nd Floor


SuperFerry

Sakay Na,
Libre
Pera Padala

QuikCash

Lower Ground Floor

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REDEEM YOUR KIND OF STUFF

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AMUSEMENT

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October 19,
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bio research

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101

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EARLY Christmas Promo

Avail of our
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SM City Bacoor

Photo Greeting Cards
or
Gift Tags

FREE

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Oct. 19,20,21

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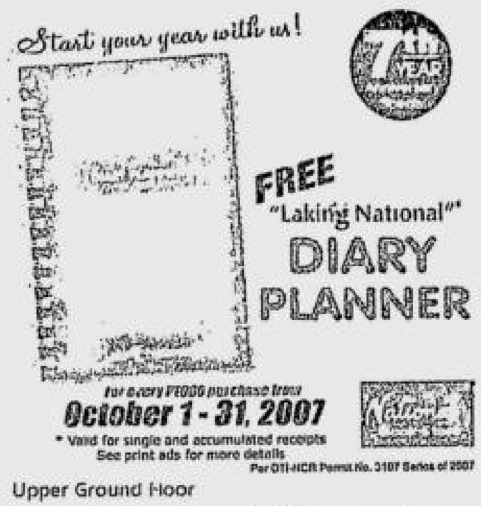
on selected items
MALLWIDE!!!"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FREE
"Laking National"
DIARY
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for every P1000 purchase from
October 1 - 31, 2007
* Valid for single and accumulated receipts
See print ads for more details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3107 Series of 2007

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AstroVision

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Mabuhay ED8000,
silver tag 7,
recording chip

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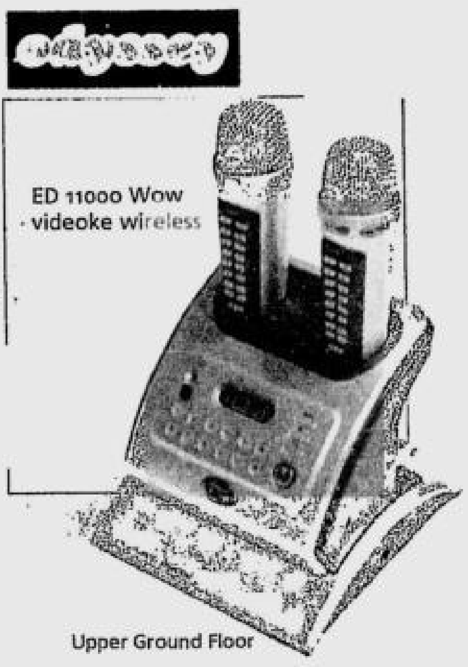
odyssey

ED 11000 Wow
videoke wireless

Upper Ground Floor

Save on Surplus
S.O.S.
Save on Surplus

up to 25% OFF on selected items

IBM Computer Package

Lower Ground Floor

Ricky Reyes

Milk
Rebonding

Gatas
lang ang
katapat mo noh!

Lower Ground Floor

dermclinic

The True Skin and Hair Clinic

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5% REBATE

Price drop
'til you drop!
At SM Manila 3-day Sale Event

Enjoy up to 15% Rebate!

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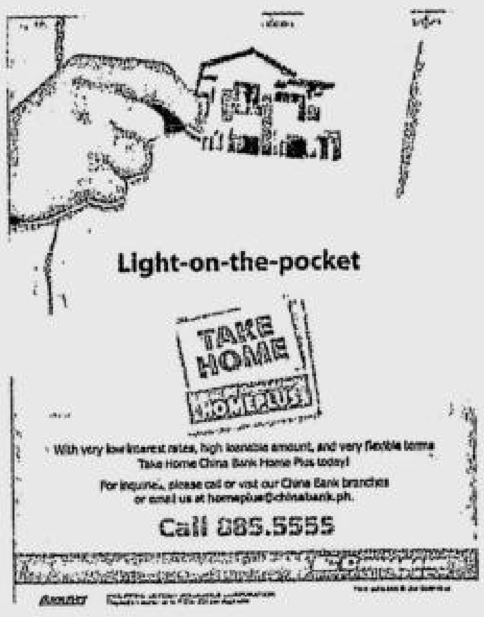
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Waxing
Body Massage
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Body Scrub & Wrap
Whitening Treatments
Permanent Hair Removal
Advance Laser Treatment
Power Peel / Diamond Peel
Cosmetics Surgery Services
Dermatologic Services
LET'S FACE IT
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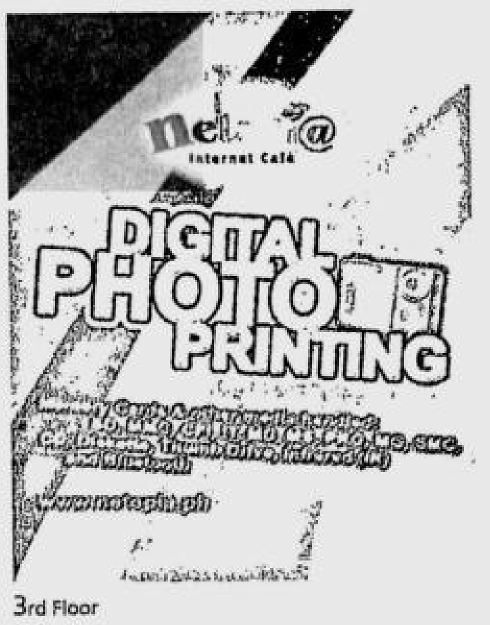
2nd Floor


Internet Café
DIGITAL PHOTO PRINTING
www.netopia.ph

3rd Floor

Ideal
VISION CENTER
The Eyewear Specialist

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Stand out! in Style

2nd Floor

PiNCTADA

Straight bar Channel design jewelry set

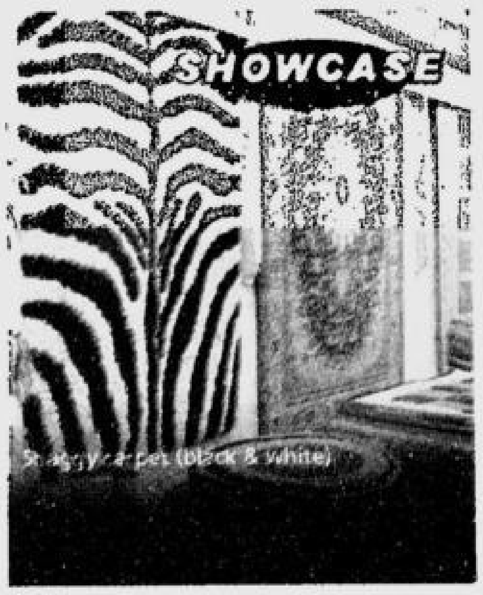
2nd Floor

WELLCOM
Digital Cameras
DC-7371
DS-7065
KingCom
Enjoy Your Life

3rd Floor

H4 hanging crystals
SOLAR LAMPS

2nd Floor


SHOWCASE
Shaggy carpet (black & white)

2nd Floor

Shop to URGE! PLUNGE!

SM City BACOOR

COMPEX
www.compexinternational.com
get the best for your money!!!

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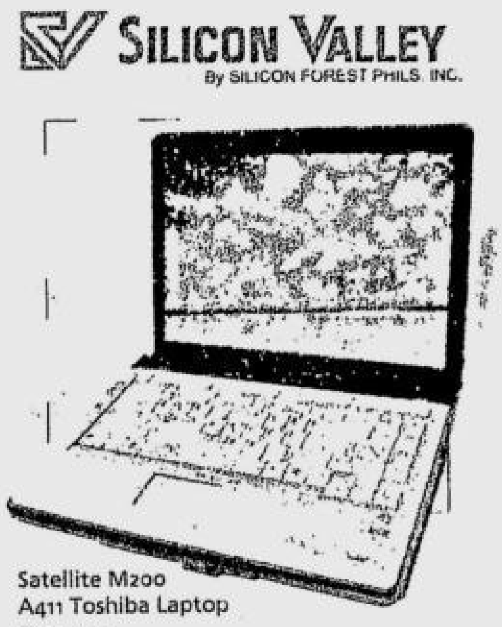
Oct. 19,20,21

"GREAT DEALS
and DISCOUNTS
on selected items
MALLWIDE!!!"

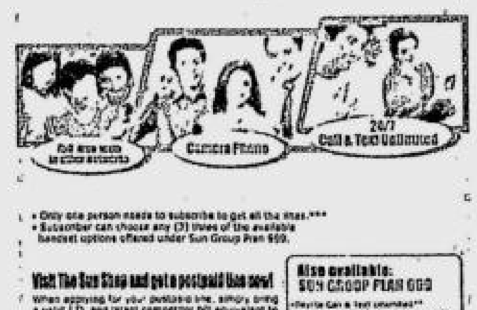

SILICON VALLEY
By SILICON FOREST PHILS. INC.

Satellite M200
A411 Toshiba Laptop

3rd Floor

COMPlink
E-box 1221W laptop

3rd Floor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Visit The Sun Shop and get a postpaid line now!
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GAMES & GADGETS
Nokia 5300
Nokia N70

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Nokia N95
Samsung u700
BSD International

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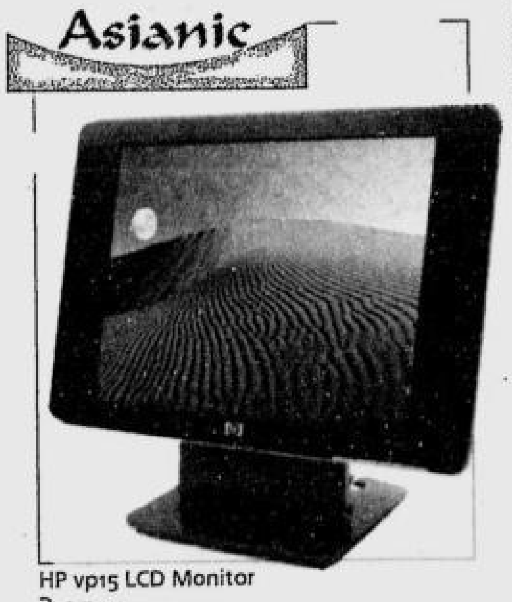

HP vp15 LCD Monitor
3rd Floor

KFC
It's Finger Lickin' Good!
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Upper Ground Floor

Expect more, pay less.
BIGSHOT
Value Meals for two
P99
per person
Pinoko pizza

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Tchibo Brewed Coffee and Fruit Bars
Upper Ground Floor

Roasters
Hot, fresh & healthy.
NEW
GRILL
6 New Choices!
Delivery 533-0888

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max's merienda
79
*Regular order (good for 2 persons) of Max's Pancit Luglug is also available a la carte
Max's

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We Deliver
Call (046) 502-0397
MXT
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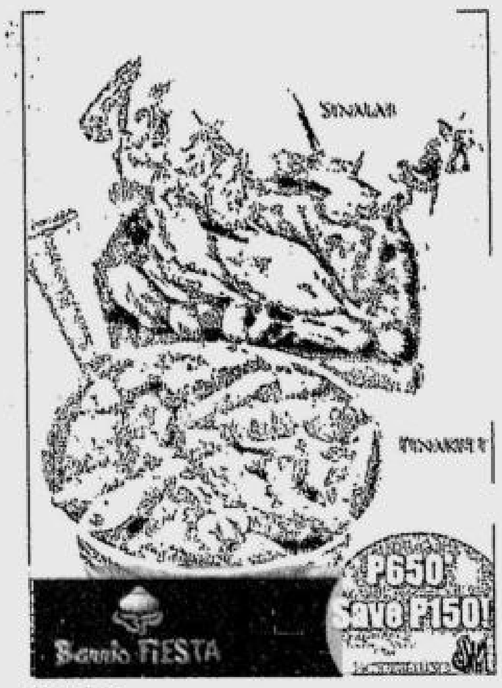
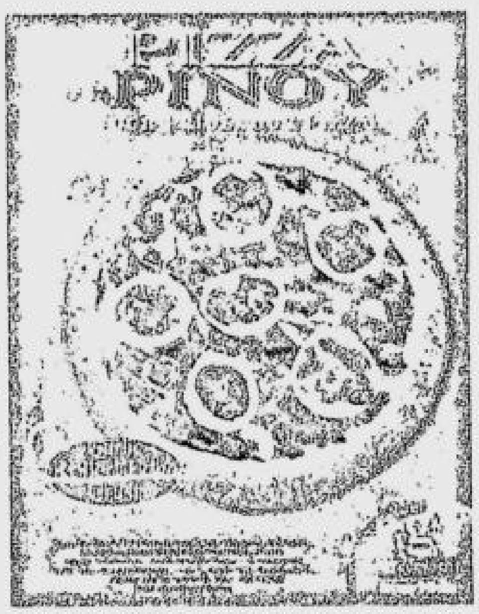

SINALAB
PINAKBET
P650
Save P150!
Barrio FIESTA

2nd Floor

Upper Ground Floor

I Just Love to EAT! SAVOR! RELISH!

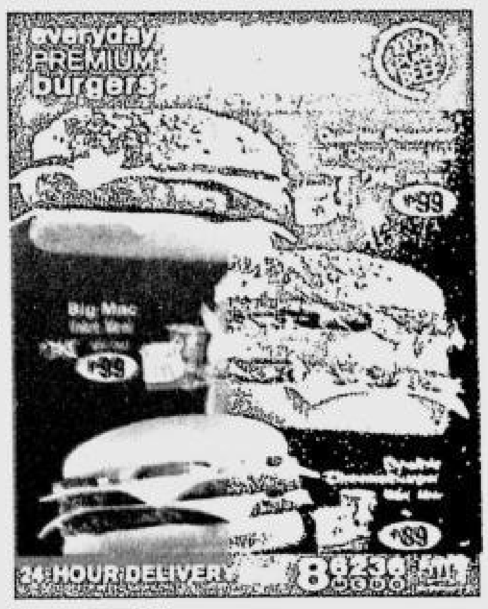
SM City BACOOR


PIZZA PINOY

Upper Ground Floor

TOKYO TOKYO
FOLLOW YOUR HUNGER
SUMO MEALS

Upper Ground Floor


everyday PREMIUM burgers
99
Big Mac
99
89
24 HOUR DELIVERY
8-6236

Upper Ground Floor

Hokkien HOUSE

Upper Ground Floor

Big Classic with Cheese
with your choice of toppings.
Wendy's
WENDY'S DELIVERS!
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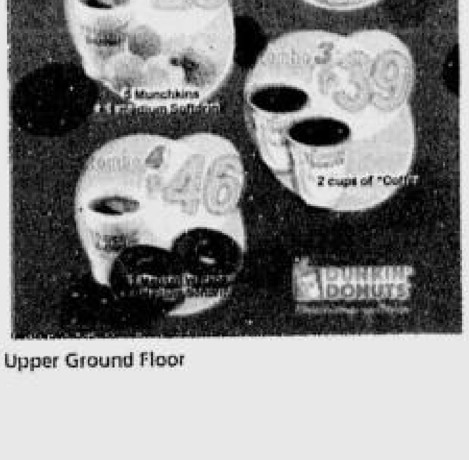
SulitPid combos
1 29
2 29
3 39
4 46
Munchkins
2 cups of "Coffee"
DUNKIN' DONUTS

Upper Ground Floor

It's gotta be
Shakey's

Upper Ground Floor

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UP TO
50% OFF
GREAT SELECTIONS
MALLWIDE

Mall hours: 10am - 10pm

get a chance to
WIN 1 of 5
Portable DVD Player with 17.78cm (7") color monitor

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Per DTI-Cavite Permit No. 271, Series of 2007

Saturday, October 13, 2007 ★★★ 9 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 307 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

S&P expects RP to sustain robust growth **BUSINESS** / B1

Filipinos among 8 charged with $80-M scheme to defraud US bank **NEWS** / A2

After 30 days of fasting, RP Muslims feast

By Jeoffrey Maitem, Nash B. Maulana and Germelina A. Lacorte *in Mindanao* **and Tina G. Santos** *in Manila*

COTABATO CITY—FEW MUSLIMS FIRED firecrackers and weapons in the air as they marked the end of the monthlong fasting at dawn yesterday.

Filipino Muslims, describing the significance of Eid'l Fitr to uninitiated Christians, usually explain it as Christmas and fiesta rolled into one.

At City Hall and the Cotabato City

AFTER 30 DAYS/ A10

Al Gore, UN share Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, NORWAY—FORMER US VICE President Al Gore and the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change jointly won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize Friday for their efforts to spread awareness of man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for fighting it.

Gore, who won an Academy Award earlier this year for his film on global warming, "An Inconvenient Truth," had been widely tipped to win the prize. The win is also likely to add further fuel to a burgeoning movement in the United

AL GORE/ A11

AHLAN WA SAHLAN
HAPPY EID'L FITR!!
EID'L FITR

RAFFY LERMA

GOD IS GREAT. The Muslims' holy month of Ramadan ends on Friday. At the Blue Mosque, Maharlika Village in Taguig, Muslims face Mecca to pray, marking the start of the Eid'l Fitr celebrations which approximate the Christians' Christmas with family reunions, gift-giving, charity work, merry-making and feasting. Muslims say that Ramadan is more meaningful this year with much and sustained support from other faiths through interfaith dialogues.

'I go down, you go down'

That's pretty clear, and she (GMA) knows it, says JDV

By Christian V. Esguerra

THEY HAVE DECIDED TO keep the ruling coalition intact, if only to avert what one of their political allies earlier warned of—the possibility of "mutually assured destruction."

At a closed-door, one-on-one meeting in Malacañang on Thursday morning, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia agreed that one's political demise was sure to lead to the other's downfall, according to De Venecia himself.

"That's pretty clear, and she knows it," he told the INQUIRER in an interview at midnight on Thursday, at the sidelines of the House deliberations on the 2008 national budget.

De Venecia said he and Ms Arroyo had acknowledged that the supposed

I GO DOWN/ A8

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SLEEPLESS IN THE HOUSE: It was 1:45 a.m., Friday, Oct. 12 when the House of Representatives approved the P1.227-trillion General Appropriations Act of 2008 after 2 weeks of marathon plenary debates. After the vote, Speaker Jose de Venecia (center) with members of the House took time out for a "Kodak moment." De Venecia claimed the session was historic in that it was the first budget bill passed in the first 2 weeks of October.

Debt service cut in P1.23-T '08 nat'l budget

By Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has reduced by P17.3 billion automatic foreign debt payments that would have eaten up more than half of the proposed P1.227-trillion national budget for 2008.

The debt payments cut was one of the highlights of the marathon plenary sessions—held amid reports of threats to the Speaker's position—that passed on second reading the country's second trillion-peso budget at 1:45 a.m. yesterday after just over a

DEBT SERVICE/ A17

US arrests 'clown' who abused RP kids

By Ferdinand Zuasola
Inquirer Mindanao

CITY OF MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL—The children at the orphanage loved him and followed him around as he thrilled them with his magic tricks.

To them, he was simply "Klutzo the Clown," a funny man who loved to take pictures of children.

Then he flew back home to the United States. The shocking news came yesterday.

US ARRESTS/ A9

3 more solons confirm 'Christmas gift'

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene Bulambot, *Inquirer Visayas* **and Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra** *in Manila*

DESPITE MALACAÑANG'S DENIALS, three veteran administration congressmen yesterday admitted envelopes containing cash were distributed during Thursday's breakfast meeting at the Palace called by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Their admissions further bolstered the INQUIRER story that envelopes were passed around during the meeting attended by about 190 lawmakers just before Ms Arroyo's supporters took a decisive step in Congress effectively thwarting any serious move to impeach her.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco admitted he got an envelope containing P200,000 in cash that he said was a "Christmas gift."

Cuenco said he did not see any malicious intent in the cash distribution, adding it was the "usual" Christmas gift congressmen had been getting every year.

3 MORE SOLONS/ A9

Opposition plans to take impeach referral to SC

By Norman Bordadora

THE OPPOSITION IN THE HOUSE OF Representatives is seriously considering taking to the Supreme Court Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar's referral of the purportedly weak impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo to the House committee on justice.

Two lawyers in the House opposition—Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora

OPPOSITION/ A8

Why, who is going after the Inquirer?

COMMENTARY

By Joker P. Arroyo
Senator,
Republic of the Philippines

(Editor's Note: Per request of the author, the following is published "unedited and in full, including the title.")

WHEN SECRETARY NERI pleaded at the close of the September 26th 2007 joint committee hearing on the NBN deal that he would like to consult his superiors before he could agree or not to disclose his conversation with the President, the Minority Leader Senator Pimentel broached to me the idea of an executive session where Neri could speak in the strictest confidence and thereby break the impasse. I agreed.

WHY, WHO/ A17

STOP TOXIC POLLUTION
PROTECT OUR WATER RESOURCES

STINKING MESS: To call attention to the extensive pollution of Bulacan rivers, Greenpeace volunteers dare to take a boat ride in the Marilao River in Bulacan to get samples of the water to determine its exact toxicity levels.

JOAN BONDOC

Solon does a 'Joker,' seeks House probe

LAHAT KAYONG SUMAWSAW SA PUTIK!

By Norman Bordadora

REP. EDGAR SAN Luis has found a way to hit back at colleagues who assailed his endorsement of a reputedly weak impeachment complaint allegedly meant to "immunize" President Macapagal-Arroyo from a stronger suit.

"If I am going to be investigated for

SOLON/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Pinoys among 8 charged in $80-M scam

5 plead guilty in scheme to defraud US Eximbank with fraudulent loans

WASHINGTON—THE US JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS CHARGED eight people, including two Filipinos, in connection with an $80 million scheme to defraud the US Export-Import Bank, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

The charges were announced by US Assistant Attorney General Alice Fisher of the Criminal Division and US Attorney Jeffrey Taylor of the District of Columbia.

Five of the eight defendants pleaded guilty in the scheme involving $80 million worth of fraudulent loan transactions between companies in the Philippines and US lending banks, in which the US Eximbank acted as guarantor or insurer.

The two Filipinos charged were Marilyn G. Ong, 51, and her nephew Ildefonso Ong Jr., 43, both from Manila. The Ongs were charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the US and to commit offenses against the US; four counts of submitting false statements to US Eximbank; four counts of mail fraud; and nine counts of money laundering.

The indictment also charged Marilyn Ong with obstructing US Eximbank's investigation of the fraudulent scheme, according to PR Newswire Association LLC in its website www.prnewswire.com.

Ripoff

"We will not tolerate fraudulent use of Ex-Im Bank financing," said US Eximbank chairman and president James H. Lambright. "With the help of the Justice Department, we will continue to pursue anyone attempting to rip off the taxpayer."

According to PR Newswire, the five who pleaded guilty were Daniel Curran, 52, of Boynton Beach, Fla.; Edward Chua, 55, of Montebello, Calif.; David Villongco, 51, of San Mateo, Calif.; Jaime Galvez, 51, of Redondo Beach, Calif. and Robert Delgado, 46, of Fremont, Calif.

Four of those who pleaded guilty are exporters, and one is a freight-forwarder.

Curran and Chua pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the US and mail fraud. Villongco and Delgado pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the government with respect to claims and mail fraud. Galvez pleaded guilty to destruction or concealment of records in a criminal investigation and perjury.

Christina Song, 49, of Whittier, Calif. was charged with conspiracy to defraud the US and mail fraud.

Up to 40 years

The five, who are all US citizens, have agreed to serve time in prison, with maximum sentences of up to 40 years. They also agreed to cash or property forfeiture.

"The pleas are the result of an extensive investigation conducted jointly by the Justice Department, FBI, and US Postal Inspection Service with the assistance of Ex-Im Bank," said General Counsel Howard Schweitzer."

The scheme involved the fraudulent sale and shipment of US exports to the Philippines.

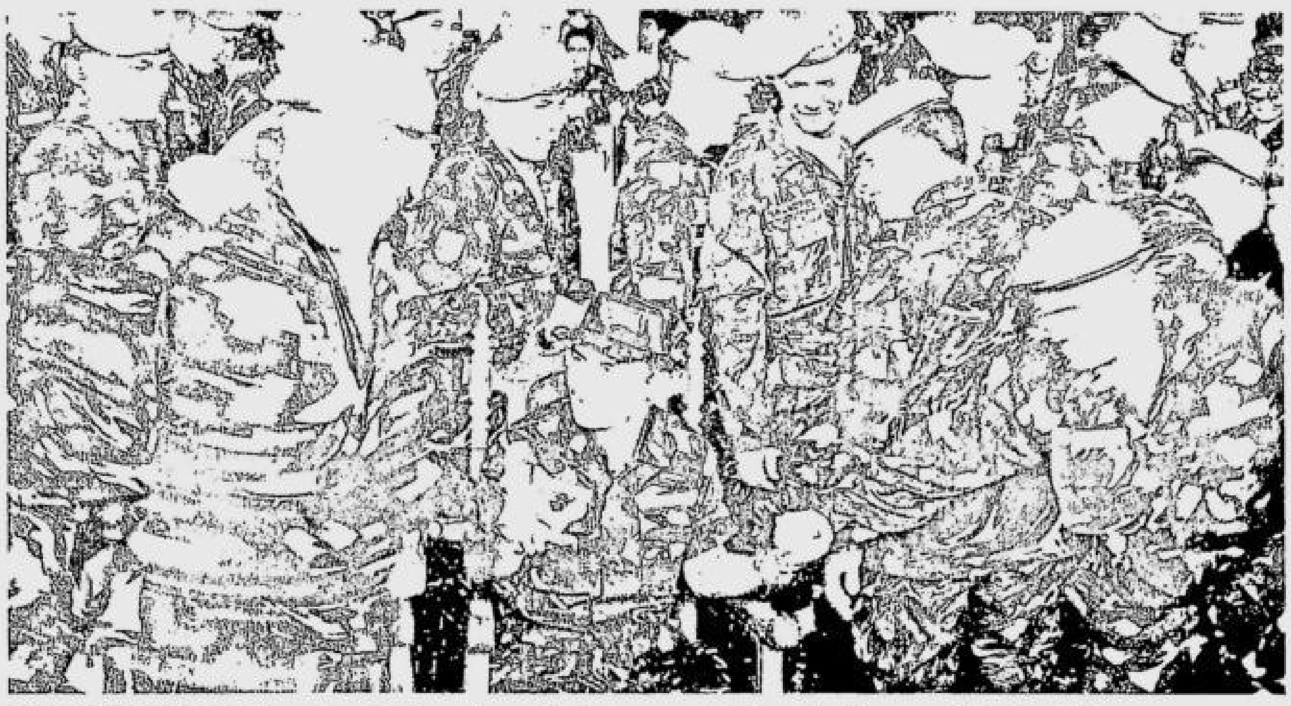
As part of the scheme, a loan broker in the Philippines assisted borrowers in executing loan agreements with lending banks and in obtaining loan guarantees or insurance policies from the US Eximbank as part of the loan agreements, the prosecutors said.

The loan broker then recruited US exporters for the purpose of purchasing US goods and shipping the goods to the Philippine borrowers.

The broker instructed the exporters to prepare false shipping documents and submit them to the lending banks to make it appear they had purchased and shipped goods.

In reality, the exporters did not purchase the goods called for in the loan agreements, and instead misappropriated a majority of the loan proceeds, the prosecutors said.

With a report from Reuters



RESERVE SERGEANT Manny Pacquiao hams it up with the troops at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. REM ZAMORA

WHAT'S INSIDE

HK STAR turns to Indonesians /A3

ERAP wants to stay longer in San Juan /A4

Sgt. Pacman to visit Basilan, Jolo troops

By Nikko Dizon

NEWLY PROMOTED RESERVIST ARMY MASTER Sergeant Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao promised yesterday to visit military troops in Basilan and Jolo to show his support for their continued fight against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in southern Mindanao.

"I will go next month to Jolo and Basilan to give support to our fellow soldiers there. I thank you for all the support you've given me and I want to give back that support to our troops there who are fighting the terrorists," Pacquiao said in an extemporaneous speech delivered in Filipino during his visit to the Philippine Army headquarters.

Army chief, Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, invited Pacquiao to the headquarters to give soldiers a chance to meet the celebrated boxer and to confer him his promotion.

Pacquiao arrived at the Army headquarters in his Porsche, wearing Army fatigues.

Around 2,000 officers and soldiers, together with their wives and children, gathered at the Army grandstand to see Pacquiao and have their photos taken with him.

"I hope my last fight gave the soldiers courage, valor and determination," Pacquiao said in Filipino.

Pacquiao won a unanimous decision in a rematch with Mexican boxer Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas on Sunday.

The victory prompted Yano to promote him from Technical Sergeant to Master Sergeant.

"I am happy to have been promoted," Pacquiao beamed, adding that he had always wanted to be a soldier and that his being an Army reservist was a fulfillment of the dream.

Pacquiao was promoted two ranks higher to Technical Sergeant after he knocked out Morales in a return bout in November last year.

Pacquiao has been conferred the highest rank for an Army reservist.

"We can no longer promote you after your next win. Maybe we'll have to demote you first," Yano told Pacquiao in jest.

At a simple reception after meeting the troops at the grandstand, Pacquiao sang a few lines from his song, "Para sa 'yo ang laban na ito (This is for you, this fight)" upon the Army officers' request.

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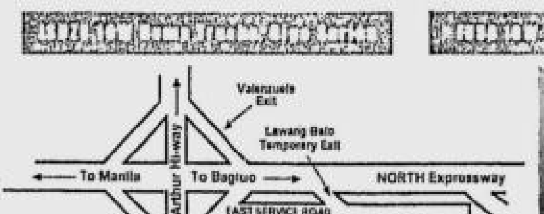

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BANNED FROM HIRING PINAYS

HK star turns to Indonesians for help

By Blanche S. Rivera

HONG KONG—SPURNED BY THE Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo), Canto-pop star Jacky Cheung and his wife, retired actress Mei Lo, have turned to Indonesians for help.

The couple, which has been banned from hiring Filipino helpers due to a record of frequently firing maids or causing them to resign, has asked recruitment agencies to find Indonesian domestic workers to replace the Filipinos who have left their household.

Lo mentioned the resignation of the four Filipino maids during the actress' meeting with Philippine consulate officials in September. Cheung himself confirmed the resignation of his maids after learning that the couple had been placed on the Polo's watch list.

"We don't know why, they (maids) just resigned voluntarily," Assistant labor attaché Leonida Romulo told Hong Kong News. The Polo had not been contacted by any of the helpers who recently quit.

She said that an agency, which used to facilitate the employment of Filipino domestic helpers for Lo, revealed that it is now processing the employment of Indonesian helpers for the Cheung household.

Indonesians, which a 2007 Caritas study found to be the "most abused" foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong, have risen in numbers in recent years. There are now 111,798 Indonesian domestic helpers, the second biggest population of foreign maids after Filipinos, who number 122,613, as of August.

The Polo stopped processing Lo's application for two more domestic helpers in August, summoning instead the retired actress to appear at the Philippine consulate and explain her employment history.

Records show that Lo, the registered employer for Cheung's house help, hired 21 domestic helpers from 2004 to 2007, only two of whom finished their contracts. Some of the helpers lasted only weeks.

Lo failed to justify the frequent resignation or termination of her Filipino maids during the meeting with Philippine officials in September, saying only that perhaps, they could not all get along as she employs at least four helpers at any given time.

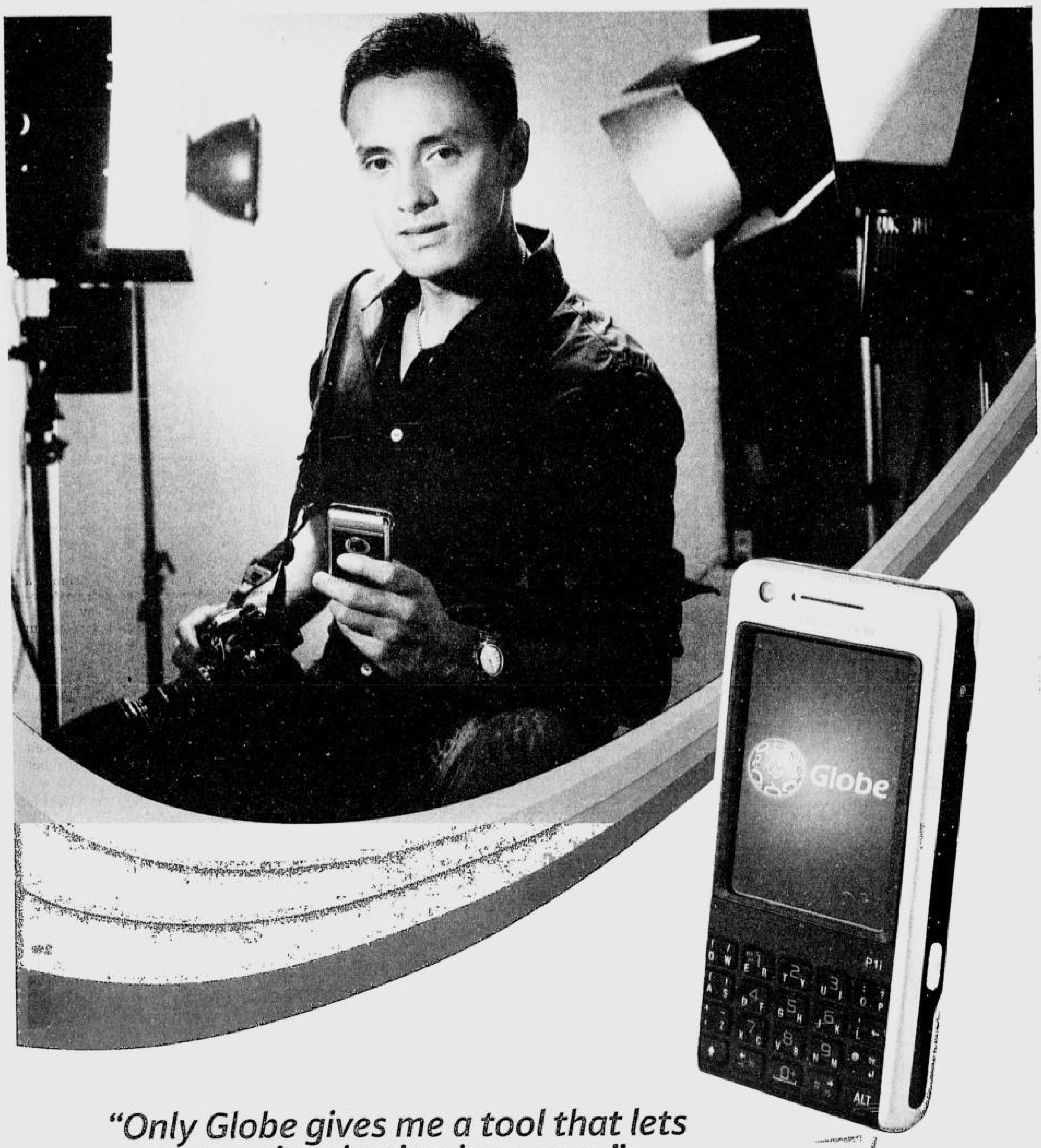
Two of Lo's former maids, whom Romulo did not name, detailed various complaints about their work in Cheung's household. One domestic helper called the Polo to report long work hours while another sent a letter asking the Polo to blacklist Lo. Blacklisted employers are never again allowed to hire Filipinos.

"If after a year they've learned their lesson, they've cooled off, they know how take care of Filipino workers, then we may reconsider. But if we still hear objections or strong concerns ... " Labor attaché Romulo Salud said, trailing off.

"If we feel that the Filipino community is already ready to forgive and understand the situation, we may consider," he said.

He said the Polo placed and removed employers on the watch list on a case-to-case basis, without specific guidelines other than the violation of the employment ordinance, reports of abuses or the questionable turnover of helpers, as in the case of Cheung and Lo.

There are now 106 employers on the watch list. These employers would not be allowed to hire Filipino helpers unless they can prove to the Philippine consulate that they are suitable employers.



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Erap wants to stay longer near ailing ma in San Juan

By Kristine L. Alave

THE LAWYER OF CONVICTED former President Joseph Estrada yesterday said they would press for his longer stay in San Juan City to be near his ailing mother.

Jose Flaminiano said they would ask the Sandiganbayan Special Division to allow Estrada, who was convicted of two counts of plunder in September, to remain for a few days at the San Juan Medical Center.

Estrada, who is appealing the Sandiganbayan ruling on his plunder case, has been detained in his estate in Tanay, Rizal since his trial began in 2001.

"We will consider every option. We will file the corresponding motion," Flaminiano said.

He added that they would ask the court next week to permit Estrada to leave Tanay and stay in his residence in Polk Street for three days starting Wednesday in preparation for the defense's oral arguments.

The Sandiganbayan gave Estrada a one-day pass yesterday to visit his mother, 102-year-old Mary Ejercito, who was admitted to the hospital in August. She is battling pneumonia and other complications caused by her ailment and age.

Security was doubled during Estrada's visit. He did not talk to the media when he arrived at around 10 a.m.

When he was in San Juan City last week, he was able to visit the nearby City Hall and had a brief chat with reporters, a violation of the Sandiganbayan's order prohibiting him from giving interviews and from leaving the hospital.

Estrada's son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, said he hopes that the court will grant his father's petition to stay in San Juan City because of his grandmother's critical condition.

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Teachers question Chinese firm's role in Cyber-Ed deal

By Jerry E. Esplanada

WHAT DOES A CHINESE COMPANY THAT manufactures X-ray machines and other state-of-the-art airport security equipment got to do with the government's Cyber Education Project (CEP)?

Militant teachers raised the question as they asked the Department of Education yesterday to explain the details of the memorandum of agreement with China covering the $460-million CEP.

The agreement requires the DepEd to team up for the project with Tsinghua Tongfang Nuctech Company (Nuctech), a Chinese company that has "no expertise in satellite-based distance learning," the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) said.

The agreement was signed by Trade Secretary Peter Pavila and Dr. Kang Ke Jung of Nuctech in Boao, China, last April.

Hu Haifeng, the 35-year-old son of Chinese President Hu Jintao, is president of Nuctech, a company that is also engaged in food processing and radioactivity monitoring.

No expertise

Quoting from the firm's website, ACT chair Antonio Tinio said "neither the manufacture of satellite equipment nor the application of satellite broadcasting or other forms of information and communications technology education are listed among [Nuctech's] areas of expertise."

"Why then is the DepEd teaming up with a manufacturer of X-ray machines?" he said.

The website describes Nuctech as "one of the world's leading suppliers of state-of-the-art container inspection systems" with exports to over 60 countries worldwide, including Australia, South Korea, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Venezuela, United Kingdom, and the Philippines.

ACT said that the Bureau of Customs acquired 10 sets of Nuctech cargo scanners worth P400 million in 2006.

Tinio said the DepEd has repeatedly said the CEP will be undertaken in partnership with the Beijing-based Tsinghua University, which is recognized for its expertise in the use of ICT for distance education.

"But the [memorandum agreement] was signed not by Tsinghua but by Kang who is chairman of Nuctech," Tinio pointed out.

Tinio noted that Nuctech "maintains close ties with the engineering [and] physics department of Tsinghua University from which it derives its core technologies."

Contacted in Cebu City, Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus said there was nothing irregular about the involvement of Nuctech in the ambitious project.

"Tsinghua Holdings of Tsinghua University owns at least 100 subsidiary companies involved in technology, including Tsinghua Tongfang Nuctech," Lapus explained.

"The bottomline is Tsinghua University, the undisputed leader in open and distance learning, is the Chinese-government designated contractor for the project, subject, of course, to pertinent Philippine laws," he said.

The CEP aims to fill the gaps in the education system by using satellite technology to deliver key learning concepts and other educational services to every school in the country through TV screens.

Investment

Only last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced she was suspending the CEP in the wake of the controversy caused by allegations of bribery in the $329-million national broadband project.

This week, however, the President pressed anew for the implementation of the CEP, saying it was an investment that the government should make to reduce poverty in the country.

Both the NBN and CEP are to be financed by concessional loans from China, because of which they have apparently been awarded to Chinese-based contractors.

Tinio said Nuctech enjoys a unique business advantage in international business circles because its president is the son of the Chinese President.

"Critics have pointed to the success of Nuctech as a classic example of how China's rulers use political power for personal gains by cornering lucrative government contracts, a situation that should be thoroughly familiar to Filipinos," he said.

"It would appear that Nuctech's favored status extends to China's foreign policy with Hu Jintao's government using tied loans to developing countries to provide Nuctech with juicy contracts overseas, such as the CEP even if the project happens to be outside the firm's core competence," Tinio said.

He asked if Ms Arroyo's championing of the CEP was "a case of the Philippine President kowtowing to the Chinese leader whose own personal interests are tied to the project in question."

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Correction

IN THE OCT. 12 ISSUE, a story on Page A7—"Rights of 40 detained Army soldiers violated, says Biazon"—misstated the name of the camp in Tanay, Rizal, where the soldiers were detained. The correct name is Camp Capinpin—not Camp Campin.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 13, 2007
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jl 4:12-21
Gospel: Luke 11:27-28

As Jesus was speaking, a woman spoke from the crowd and said to him, "Blessed is the one who bore you and nursed you!" Jesus replied, "Surely blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it as well."

Commentary

There will be judgment. All the nations will be involved and God will be known as the only God. There will be restoration for Jerusalem and for those who have been faithful. While for those who have done evil, and have enslaved and destroyed others, they will know the violence of their own choice coming to visit them. The Lord is the Lord of justice and one day all will be revealed and set right. We hear the book of Joel at the beginning of Lent. As the year comes to an end we are called to look and to see if this year has been the Year of the Lord.

While Jesus is speaking the Word of God, the truth, a woman cries out in blessing for the woman who gave him birth and nursed him as a child. But Jesus refuses to allow that blessing to stand. He says, "No. Rather blessed is the one who hears the word of God and keeps it!" This is more important than any relationship of human kinship, marriage, family, and parents. We are given birth in the Word of God and we must make sure that this Word grows within us.

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Comelec accredits PPCRV

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) has accredited the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) as its citizen's arm for the Oct. 29 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections.

In a resolution, the Comelec en banc granted the PPCRV's Aug. 10 petition seeking accreditation.

The Comelec said that it has considered PPCRV's commendable participation in past electoral exercises as well as its commitment toward honest, clean, credible, and peaceful elections, for its accreditation of the group.

It added, the PPCRV has also sufficiently complied with the Comelec's accreditation rules.

The Comelec said that the PPCRV will conduct poll watching and assist voters in various precincts, and assist the Comelec in providing voter's information and values education in municipalities, cities and provinces. *Beverly T. Natividad*

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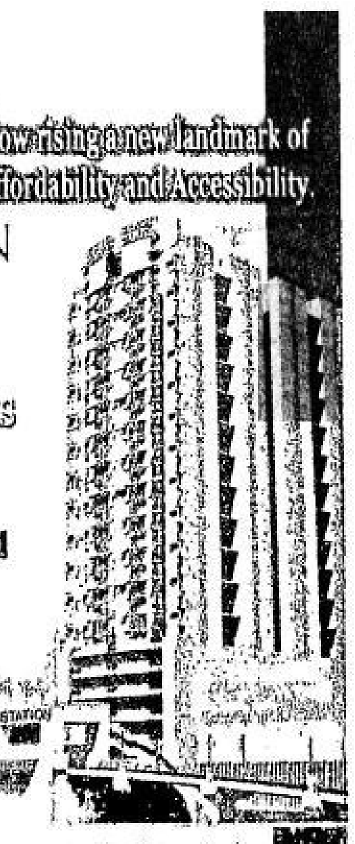

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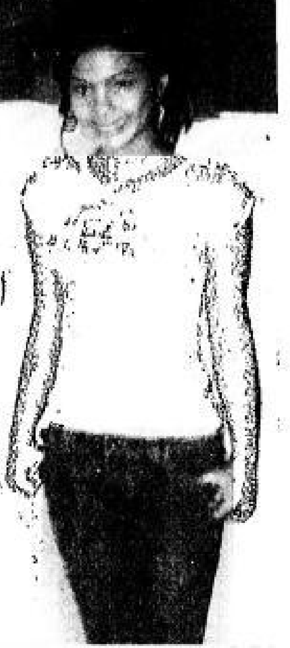

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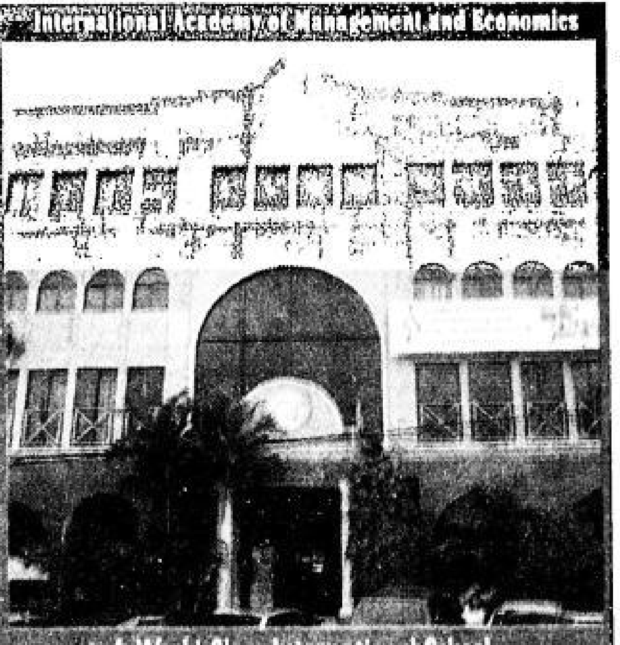

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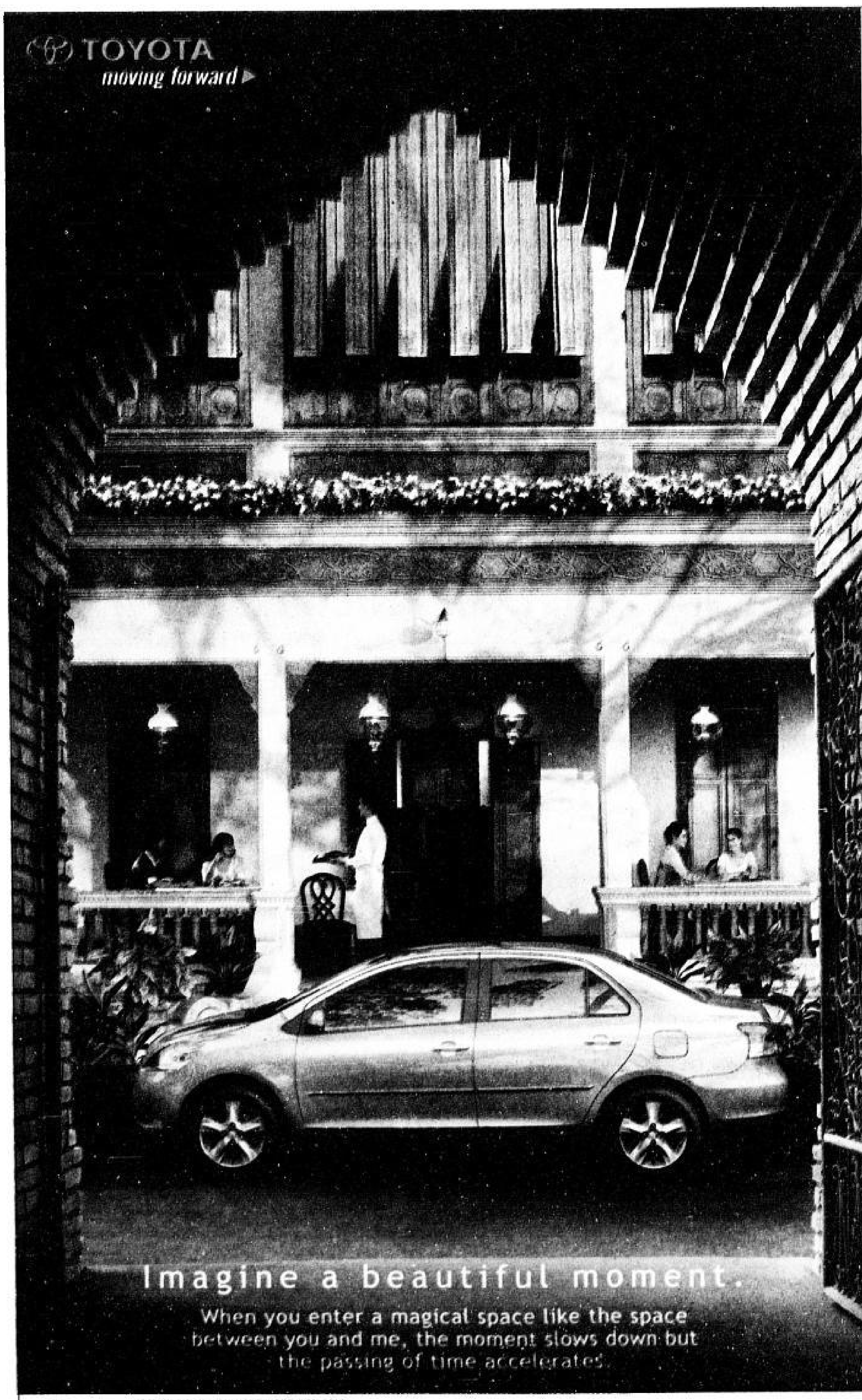

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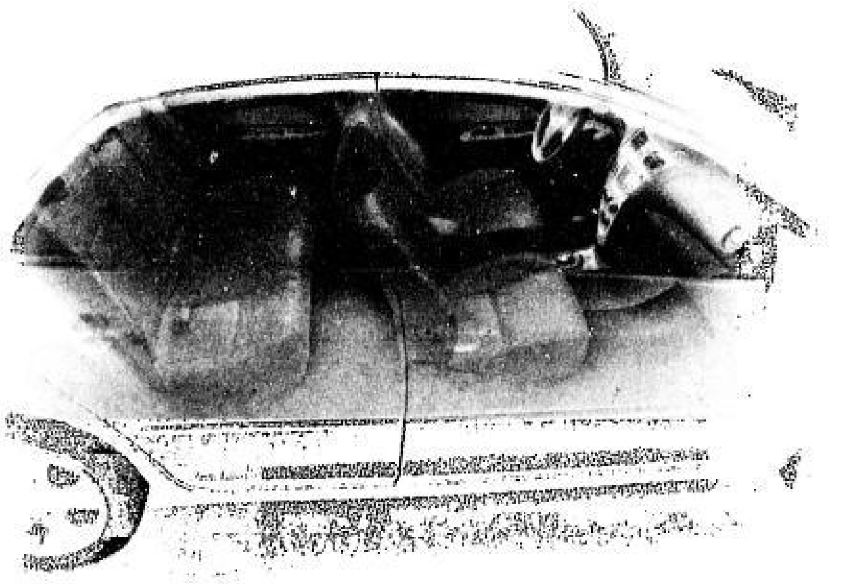

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WHO lauds SC ruling on infant milk ads

By Beverly T. Natividad

DESPITE THE Supreme Court's recent lifting of the ban on infant milk formula advertisements, the World Health Organization (WHO) has lauded the high court's support of the Department of Health's power to regulate the marketing of breastmilk substitutes.

In a statement yesterday, WHO Philippines country representative Dr. Nyuntu Soe said that overall, the high court's final decision on the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations for the 1986 Milk Code is a "victory for the Philippine children."

On Thursday, the Unicef echoed the same sentiments in a statement saying it was "delighted" with the SC ruling. It said the decision signals an end to the unethical advertising claims of manufacturers of breastmilk substitutes which had successfully undermined efforts to promote breastfeeding.

Soe said that while the court struck down the section which absolutely prohibited infant formula milk ads, it still saw merit in the DOH's argument that it needed to regulate the marketing of breastmilk substitutes in order to improve the low breastfeeding rates in the country.

"While we hoped for a total ban on the marketing of breast milk substitutes, the SC nevertheless reaffirmed the DOH's power to regulate, screen, and decide on the advertising and promotional materials of these products alongside an interagency committee," Soe said.

Soe said the WHO applauds the tribunal's wisdom in saying that the Milk Code should also protect and promote the nourishment of children older than 12 months, thus concluding that the Pharmaceutical Health Association of the Philippines (PHAP) was mistaken in claiming that the Milk Code's coverage is only limited to children below 12 months.

Soe also lauded the decision to uphold the DOH's recommendation to require new labels on the packaging of infant formula milk which should visibly state that the infant formula may contain pathogenic microorganisms.

Soe said the decision reaffirms the key direction of the National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy inspired after the Global Strategy developed by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the WHO.

"We are confident that this development will pave the way for an end to the misleading statements and false claims of milk companies that for many years have undermined breastfeeding efforts in the country," said Soe.

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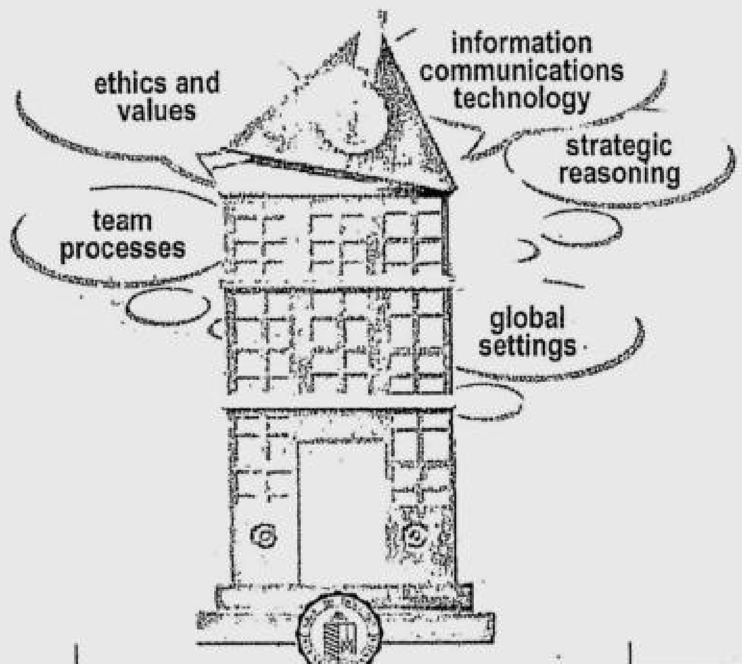
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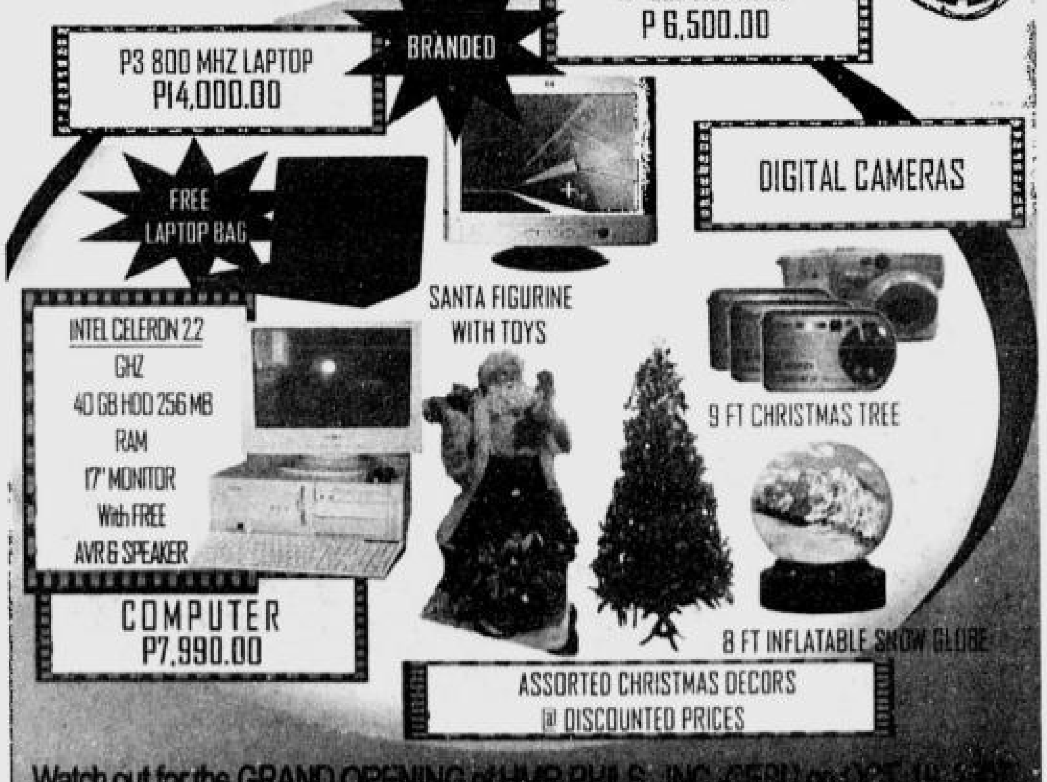
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Pinoy abducted in Nigeria home today

By Tarra Quismundo

A FILIPINO WORKER ABDUCTED in Nigeria and released after two weeks of captivity is coming home this morning, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

Albert Bacani Sr., an electrician working for an Italian oil company in the oil-rich Port Harcourt, is expected to arrive in Manila at 8:45 a.m. today via a KLM Airlines flight.

His repatriation follows five days since he and a Colombian co-worker were "recovered by Nigerian authorities" on a bridge near Port Harcourt.

Officials of the DFA Migrant Workers' Affairs office and the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration are expected to welcome Bacani at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Bacani and his Colombian colleague were found in Port Harcourt around 9 p.m of Oct. 9 in Nigeria (5 a.m. in Manila). No further details about the release and prior negotiations were disclosed but the DFA said Thursday that there were no concessions involved as Nigerian authorities "pressured the kidnappers to free Bacani."

The two workers were seized on Sept. 27 by around 10 men in military attire who attacked the Port Harcourt construction yard of Saipem, a firm controlled by Italian oil giant Eni. A Colombian worker was killed during the raid.

The DFA identified the abductors as a "splinter group" of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta.

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Migrante disputes OFW survey

By Jerome Aning

A MILITANT GROUP OF OVERSEAS FILipino workers and their families yesterday disputed the findings of a recent survey that says that families of OFWs "tend to just sit back and wait for remittances, apparently content with that kind of life."

Migrante International said the survey's sponsor, Nielsen Media Research Philippines, should explain and elaborate on the basis for its conclusion, adding, "The reality is that if most OFW families have no other source of local income, that's because there are little available—which is why their loved ones were forced to work overseas in the first place."

Maita Santiago, secretary-general of Migrante, cited the findings of the independent think-tank Ibon Foundation that the unemployment rates for 2001 to 2006 were at a "record high" of 11.3 percent while underemployment in the same period averaged 18.7 percent.

There are also approximately 11.6 million Filipinos or one-third of the labor force who are currently jobless or looking for work, according to Ibon.

"Further, if only a small percentage of families use remittances to set up businesses or make other investments—that's because after paying for food, education and rent, there's usually little left over," Santiago said.

She also cited a recent Asia Development Bank study which showed that the top items OFW families spent remittances on were food, education, rent and utilities.

On the other hand, Santiago said that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in its Consumer Expectations Survey for the third quarter this year similarly showed that 94.1 percent of households receiving remittances spent money on food and other household needs.

Migrante was also bothered if family members left behind by OFWs were really content with their lives.

"The statement that the families are 'content' is troubling given the intense social costs of forced migration on families. Can anyone ever be content knowing their family is torn apart?" she asked.

Aside from the social costs, Migrante said the economic benefits of the OFWs' remittances should also be considered vis-à-vis the welfare protection given by the government to OFWs.

NHA marks 32nd year

THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL mark its 32nd year on Monday with Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), gracing the celebration at the NHA main office in Diliman, Quezon City.

The NHA was created in 1975 and has since carried out various housing projects, particularly resettlement and slum upgrading, benefiting over five million homeless Filipinos.

Under the leadership of Vice President de Castro, who also sits as Chairman of the Board,

The NHA, in a press statement, said it has implemented a massive resettlement program for families displaced from danger areas and sites earmarked for priority infrastructure projects. De Castro sits as chairman of the NHA board.

A total of 14,269 squatter families living along the railroad tracks in Bulacan have been relocated to resettlement areas. This enabled them to have their own houses and paved the way for the complete clearing of the 32-kilometer right-of-way of the Metro Manila and Bulacan segments of the Northrail Project. Since the onset of the project in 2002, a total of 23,172 families have been relocated.

Highlights of the anniversary rites on Monday will include a thanksgiving Mass, the conferment of loyalty awards to NHA employees and opening of a photo exhibit on the Rail Linkage Project.

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'I go down, you go down,' GMA and JDV agree

From page A1

conflict between them was the handiwork of "Machiavellian intriguers" and "dark forces that are out to divide us."

He refused to name names, but said the two of them would look into the matter "more carefully" in the next few days.

"Malacañang has been described as a snake pit," he said. "We also have our own snake pit in the House."

The meeting between the two leaders took place hours before De Venecia announced in a press conference that he was inhibiting himself from the referral of the impeachment complaint filed against Ms Arroyo by lawyer Roel Pulido.

The complaint, which reached the House committee on justice at 7:30 p.m. on the same day, gave Ms Arroyo yearlong immunity from another or a stronger impeachment case.

Clearing the air

De Venecia said his meeting with the President allowed both of them to clear the air, following weeks of speculation that they were headed for a split.

In an earlier interview, one of their allies in the House said their relationship had reached the level of a "mutually assured destruction."

The political alliance began in 1998 when De Venecia, then a presidential candidate, and his Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats provided the political machinery for Ms Arroyo, his running mate, who belonged to the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

De Venecia said Ms Arroyo assured him at the Palace meeting that she would not move for his ouster, particularly in the wake of his son and namesake's disclosures on the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project that was awarded to China's ZTE Corp.

"She has sent so many messages and assurances," he added.

(Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, who had submitted an unsolicited proposal for the project, told a Senate inquiry into the matter that the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had told him to "back off" from the deal.)

The Speaker said that at one point during the meeting, he told Ms Arroyo that both of them should "watch our backs."

"This guy is so vicious," he said in reference to Pulido, who had also filed a separate ethics and graft case against him. Like the impeachment complaint, the case was based on the NBN-ZTE controversy.

High ground

De Venecia said he gave the go-signal for the referral of the Pulido complaint to the justice committee to help dispel talk that he wanted to delay it so he could prepare a stronger impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

But the primary consideration, he said, was to keep the majority coalition from falling apart—a piece of advice that he had consistently received from leading administration lawmakers in the House.

"I feel stronger morally and politically," he said. "I stood on high political and moral ground."

De Venecia said paving the way for Ms Arroyo's yearlong immunity from another impeachment case did not exactly put him at a political disadvantage in case of a real conflict.

"We won't come to that point because the coalition is intact," he said. "Even those who wish me ill were not able to implement their designs, and I came out even stronger."

Keeping the faith

Speaking with reporters after the 2008 budget was passed at 1:45 a.m. yesterday, De Venecia said he believed that he had hurdled a hump in his battle to keep the speakership.

"I believe so," he said when asked if he thought the worst was over as far as threats to his post were concerned.

"But there have always been challenges to my leadership since I became Speaker in 1992," he added.

Rumors of De Venecia's ouster continued to make the rounds in the House as its members went through the General Appropriations Bill and despite his move to have Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar refer the impeachment complaint to the justice committee.

"We've gone through many storms and we emerged victorious. The important thing is we've kept the faith and kept our hard work for public duty and the national duty," De Venecia said.

Before the adjournment of yesterday's session at almost 2 a.m., Majority Leader Arthur Defensor rose to manifest the House leadership's support for the Speaker.

"Our faith in your leadership remains strong and unwavering," said Defensor, a De Venecia ally, amid applause and cheering from members of the majority, minority and the administration's so-called Reform Bloc, as well as the few independents.

Ouster can still happen

A senior congressman close to De Venecia told the INQUIRER that the Speaker's allies in the House remained on guard.

"There really are forces who want him out," said the senior congressman who asked that he not be named because of his high position in the House.

He said certain quarters were still trying to convince Ms Arroyo to drop De Venecia and allow her allies in the House to oust him.

"We are confident in her support for the Speaker—but not very confident," the lawmaker said. "We are not leaving anything to chance."

A member of the Reform Bloc, who also requested anonymity because of his affiliation, confirmed to the INQUIRER that indeed efforts were under way to oust De Venecia.

"It might happen in November, or in December," he said.

He added jokingly that it could come immediately after the budget deliberations: "If we finish the budget early, we might make a move [to declare all seats vacant]."

Help from a group

The clearing of the air between the President and the Speaker occurred with the help of a group of administration lawmakers who went to Malacañang on Tuesday.

The group broached the matter to Ms Arroyo over lunch, a lawmaker who attended the affair told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"We were disappointed because we were doing our jobs, we were working long hours in the House, yet some of our colleagues were busy sowing intrigues and whispering them to the President," the informant said.

Per the account, Ms Arroyo was asked directly if she was moving to oust De Venecia.

Her purported answer was that she was not.

Majority Leader Defensor, who was among the group, reportedly explained to the President that De Venecia's allies were not moving against her by amending the rules on impeachment, a proposal made as early as two weeks ago.

The proposed amendment would have allowed the consolidation of two or more impeachment complaints before these are put in the order of business.

It was meant to address the problem of a bogus complaint blocking legitimate ones because of the one-year immunity rule. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Opposition plans to take impeach referral by Deputy Speaker to SC

From page A1

of San Juan and Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez—questioned Del Mar's authority to conduct the referral process.

"Mr. Speaker, by whose authority does the Deputy Speaker refer the impeachment complaint to the committee on justice?" Zamora said in a manifestation Thursday night.

Zamora contended that the authority delegated by the House to the Speaker—such as the mandate to refer impeachment complaints to the justice committee—may not be delegated further to an agent of the Speaker.

Rodriguez echoed this yesterday, telling the INQUIRER: "If [Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.] didn't want to, a different Speaker may refer the complaint, but not [a Deputy Speaker]."

According to Rodriguez, the Constitution delegates the House to draft the rules on impeachment, and the House in turn delegates the Speaker to refer the impeachment complaint to the committee on rules, which will then put the complaint in the calendar of business for referral to the committee on justice.

"It's only the Speaker who can refer the complaint, not any of his representatives," Rodriguez said, adding:

"I already talked with Ronnie [Zamora] and we initially agreed to go to the Supreme Court to question the referral."

He also said the minority may question the impeachment referral on two grounds—that it was attended by bribery, and that it was done illegally and unconstitutionally.

'Mechanical' process

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, another member of the House minority, was quick to protest Del Mar's action.

At the plenary deliberations on Thursday night, Casiño tried to make an objection but was told off by Majority Leader Arthur Defensor of Iloilo that a referral was a "mechanical" process not subject to debate.

"In that case, we'll just register our protest and enter into the records that we in the minority did not just stand idly by and allowed the referral of a fake impeachment complaint meant to shield the President from genuine impeachment for one year," Casiño said.

But eventually, Casiño and company did not press the issue of what they called an illegal referral because a division of the House on the matter would only result in their loss by an overwhelming number.

Earlier on Thursday, Speaker De Venecia inhibited himself from referring the impeachment complaint filed by private lawyer Roel Pulido against Ms Arroyo.

He said he was not keen on referring the complaint because alleged bribery attempts had attended its endorsement process.

De Venecia assigned Del Mar to refer the complaint to the justice committee.

Governors' moves

While the House opposition is planning its moves, governors aligned with the President are preparing to seek not only the dismissal of the Pulido complaint but also an end to the Senate inquiries into the since scrapped National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp. and the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal.

The 81-strong League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) came up with its common position and action a day after Ms Arroyo met in Malacañang with almost half the number of the country's governors, including Ben Evardone of Eastern Samar, Vilma Santos-Recto of Batangas, Ed Panlilio of Pampanga, Gwen Garcia of Cebu, and Vic Yap of Tarlac.

Following a discussion with the President on the government's status report on the infrastructure program of the "super regions," about 50 governors later met and decided to call for the junking of the Pulido complaint.

"The governors decided, after analyzing the impeachment complaint, to ask Congress to dismiss the complaint," said Evardone, secretary general of the LPP.

"We believe that the complaint has no leg to stand on," Evardone said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendano*

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Solon does a 'Joker'

From page A1

what I believe in, they should also investigate those allegations [of money changing hands in the Palace]," San Luis said.

The neophyte lawmaker from Laguna told the INQUIRER yesterday that the House committee on ethics must also look into the ethical issues surrounding the reported distribution of P200,000 to P500,000 in cash to more than 100 congressmen who trooped to Malacañang on Thursday morning.

San Luis earlier decried being investigated for bribery, which purportedly attended the search for endorsers of the lame impeachment case allegedly designed to fail.

Ethics probe

"I endorsed an impeachment complaint based on my conscience so the truth may come out and I found myself the subject of an ethics investigation," San Luis said in an interview.

"Look at your headline. 'Palace fixes 190 solons.' Would you expect my colleagues to also file an ethics case against them[selves]?" he added.

San Luis was referring to the INQUIRER's banner story yesterday on the dole-outs of P200,000 to P500,000 given to congressmen in Malacañang as Speaker Jose de Venecia reportedly "agonized" over whether to refer the allegedly sham impeachment against Ms Arroyo.

House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor of Iloilo was quoted by inquirer.net as saying that the dole-outs were "a standard." He said it was an assistance of sorts in anticipation of the barangay elections and the expected influx of community leaders asking for campaign funds.

Bribe try?

Romblon Rep. Eleandro Madrona said early this week that San Luis would be investigated after Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran's privilege speech detailing a bribe try for his endorsement also mentioned a sham endorsement by San Luis.

San Luis has since denied knowing Francis Ver, the lawyer who allegedly offered the bribe. He also denied receiving any monetary reward for his endorsement of lawyer Roel Pulido's complaint against Ms Arroyo.

"It's only I and Atty. (Pulido) who talked about this," he said.

Hostage

San Luis reserved his more scathing criticisms for the House Speaker.

"De Venecia was upset because I beat [him] to the draw when I endorsed the impeachment complaint," he said.

In his privilege speech on Thursday night, San Luis said De Venecia delayed his decision on the impeachment as a way to hold Malacañang hostage to his concessions.

"Since the 'Hello Garci' episode, De Venecia has held the prospect of impeachment like a sword of Damocles over the head of the President," San Luis said. "There's no way we'll know what concessions he already got from the President."

Request for the heads

In his privilege speech, San Luis said he received information that De Venecia wanted Ms Arroyo to remove Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, Health Secretary Francisco Duque, Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia, Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. Chair Ephraim Genuino.

He said De Venecia was holding out on his decision on the impeachment referral because of his request for the heads of the officials.

Garcia is the son of Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia who wrestled with the Speaker over the leadership of the House in July.

Control

Why would De Venecia want the others removed?

"He wants control," San Luis said. "These are the country's cash-rich agencies and he wants to control them as well. It's all about control."

For his part, De Venecia hit the alleged "disinformation campaign" on his motives for holding back the transmittal.

He denied San Luis' allegations that he was seeking the removal of the said Cabinet secretaries.

"They are among the top performers in the Arroyo government and I have absolutely no reason to seek their removal," De Venecia said in a statement.

3 more solons confirm 'Christmas gift'

From page A1

But Cuenco refused to say who distributed the money or if he was referring to Ms Arroyo as the source of the Christmas gift that congressmen "usually" received every year.

He criticized people who connected the "Christmas gift" to the impeachment complaint filed against Ms Arroyo.

Cuenco also said he did not know who distributed the envelopes.

Two other administration lawmakers also said they received a similar amount but asked not to be identified because they did not want to compromise their positions in case of a shake-up in the leadership of the House of Representatives.

INQUIRER sources said the distribution of the envelopes was accompanied by Palace promises that the "pork barrel" allotments of the congressmen would be released soon—either before or after the Oct. 29 barangay elections.

Malacañang scoffed at the report, while some other congressmen insisted no cash flowed during the meeting.

"If rumor-mongering could generate income, the Philippines would have the highest GDP (gross domestic product) in the world," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a text message.

For his part, Secretary Cerge Remonde, the head of the Presidential Management Staff, said he asked Cuenco about his admission and that Cuenco told him it was just a "joke."

But nowhere in Cuenco's taped radio telephone interview over Cebu's dyLA did he say that he was just joking.

His tone was serious. At some point he sounded evasive and irritated when pressed for details about the "Christmas gift."

Cuenco was first asked to comment on the INQUIRER story about congressmen getting from P200,000 to P500,000 each and being promised up to P70 million in pork barrel.

Cuenco cut in, saying in Bisaya: "*Way pork barrel. Ang gipanghatag gagmayng amount ... pinaskuhan tingale to* (There was no pork barrel. What was given was a small amount. Perhaps, it was a Christmas gift)," Cuenco said.

'Dos sientos'

Asked to reiterate if congressmen received cash, he answered: "*O diha, diha ... pinaskuhan* (Yes, there was ... there was ... Christmas gift)."

He stressed the amounts were "small" and varied from one congressman to another.

Cuenco said he only got "dos sientos" (200). Asked if he meant P200,000, he answered in the affirmative. He also said "yes" when asked if the money was placed in an envelope.

Cuenco sounded irritated when asked why they were getting Christmas gift this early.

"*Sagdi na, ayaw nalang ko og lalisa basta mao na* (Let it go. Don't argue with me. That's enough)," he snapped.

Then he abruptly ended the interview, saying he no longer wanted to be interrogated.

"Don't interrogate me anymore ... Please. I am telling you what I experienced. Don't ask me about the experience of other (congressmen)," he said.

A senior administration congressman said the money given them in Malacañang was something the administration was beholden to give.

"That's their obligation as our leaders in the ruling coalition," the lawmaker said. But he said there was no mention of support for the Palace position on the impeachment issue.

"We were just given our envelopes as we went our way," he said.

A member of the House leadership expressed the same view.

"It is expected from the party whether you think the party is Malacanang or not," the House leader said, adding the party gives such cash gifts as the House goes on recess -- "with or without impeachment."

More denials

Other congressmen in Cebu also denied there were payoffs.

Raul del Mar, Deputy Speaker for the Visayas, said he did not know of any congressman who received cash.

"If you give cash to more than 150 (congressmen), definitely somebody would talk about it. I don't think they are that careless to do that, so I don't think there is any truth to that," Del Mar said.

Other Cebuano congressmen who attended yesterday's birthday celebration of Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, where Ms Arroyo was guest of honor, also denied that money changed hands.

Outright denials also came from Rep. Benhur Salimbangon, who said congressmen were not cheap, and Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz, who dismissed the report as "so ridiculous."

Rep. Pablo John Garcia asked where his share was if the report was true while Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano VI said he was not in the meeting because he was in Cebu.

Negros Occidental congressmen also denied they received P500,000 and promises of pork barrel.

Rep. Jeffrey Ferrer said he attended the breakfast at Malacañang but all he did was shake the hands of boxing champion Manny Pacquiao and left early.

Another congressman, asking not to be identified, admitted he, too, received cash on Thursday but said the amount came—not from Ms Arroyo—but from the budget of the House of Representatives and partly from the funds of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

He said it was distributed, not during the breakfast with Ms Arroyo but at the Batasan Complex. He said the money came in the form of checks.

"It's unfair to connect the release of the amounts to the impeachment complaint against the President," he told the INQUIRER. He said the distribution might have appeared "questionable" only because it came amid speculation about what De Venecia would do with the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

Ready for release

De Venecia later decided to inhibit himself from referring the complaint to the committee on rules and eventually to the committee on justice, delegating the job to Del Mar.

Opposition lawmakers said they expected the justice committee to eventually kill the impeachment complaint.

This would mean that Ms Arroyo would be immune from any other impeachment challenge for another year, under House rules.

The legislator who said that he received money from the House budget also said congressmen had received word that part of their "pork barrel" for the second half of the year was ready for release. The amount supposedly was between P15 million and P20 million.

But he made it clear that congressmen would not actually receive cash amounts because the funds would go straight to government agencies that would implement specific projects.

3-month allowance, bonus

To show that the amounts distributed to congressmen the other day were "aboveboard," the source gave the following breakdown: of the total cash amount, P150,000 represented a three-months' allowance while the remainder of P70,000 was a "bonus" from De Venecia.

"The amount is usually distributed to congressmen before they take their semestral break," he said. "It's just unfortunate that they came in the middle of a controversy. That's why forces out to sow intrigue found a good and convenient subject."

The source said the monthly allowance that came with the P220,000 check had corresponding documents that lawmakers had to sign as proof of receipt.

"If the money was meant to bribe anyone, why would you have him sign a legal document?" he asked. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

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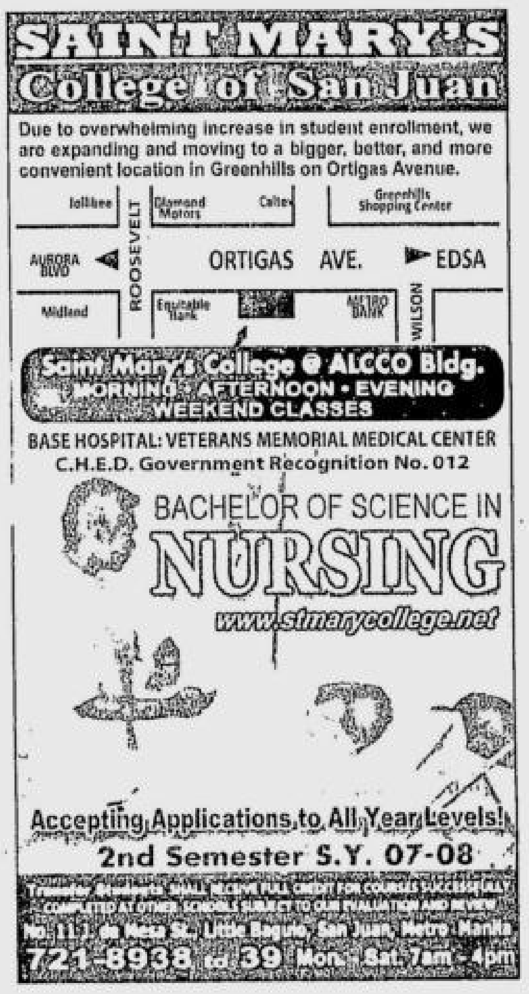

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US arrests 'clown' who abused RP kids

From page A1

An Agence France-Presse report from Washington said that Paul Carlock, a 57-year-old Christian missionary who had worked as "Klutzo the Clown" at birthdays, hospitals and parish parties, had been arrested by US authorities and charged with child pornography and other offenses, according to a US court source.

Carlock, a former police officer, had gone to the Philippines in June to work as a clown and missionary at the House of Joy orphanage in San Isidro town in Davao Oriental.

When his bags were checked on his return to the United States on Tuesday, Carlock was found to have images on his camera and computer of naked boys, mostly about 9 or 10 years old, from the orphanage.

Three youths told investigators Carlock had abused them. And a search of his home turned up child pornography, documents showed, according to AFP.

Arrested in the midwestern US state of Illinois, Carlock was charged with knowingly possessing child pornography, and engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a minor.

Carlock denied the allegations.

A volunteer clown

"That's how they live," Carlock said to explain the naked photos of young boys, according to the website The Smoking Sun.

Tina Yu, founder of the House of Joy orphanage, which relies on donations, said yesterday that Carlock had volunteered to work at the orphanage as a "magician-clown."

"Two years ago, he told us he saw our website and that he wanted to help. He said he would not donate money but he will work as magician-clown for the children," Yu told the INQUIRER.

She said that for several months, Carlock would entertain the children and then leave for the US again. Then he would return and resume his work as Klutzo the Clown.

"I think he was here for two months this year. The last time we met was in July," Yu said.

"But we never suspected that he was a pedophile even when he left in July," Yu said.

Yu said that during his stay in San Isidro, Carlock always spent time with the orphans.

He loved children

"He was very close to the children. They followed him around," said Yu, a former mayor of San Isidro.

She said that Carlock also showed he loved the children and that he never took pay for his services.

"In school, he also took photos of children. He liked to take their photos," Yu said.

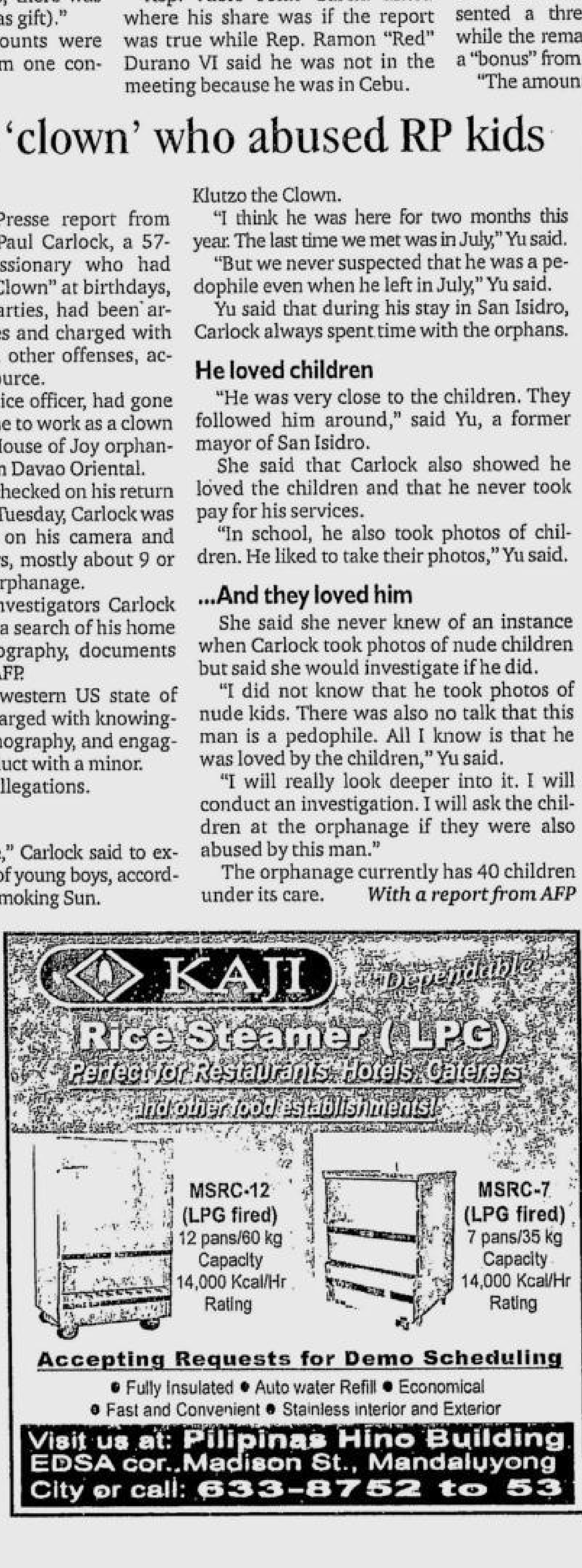
...And they loved him

She said she never knew of an instance when Carlock took photos of nude children but said she would investigate if he did.

"I did not know that he took photos of nude kids. There was also no talk that this man is a pedophile. All I know is that he was loved by the children," Yu said.

"I will really look deeper into it. I will conduct an investigation. I will ask the children at the orphanage if they were also abused by this man."

The orphanage currently has 40 children under its care. *With a report from AFP*



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After 30 days ...

From page A1

Central Pilot grounds, thousands of Muslims convened at 6 a.m. for their congregational prayer on the occasion of Eid'l Fitr, the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Mayor Muslimin Sema told reporters that less gunfire was heard throughout the city at dawn as the majority heeded an appeal not to fire guns. Muslims traditionally welcome the end of the fasting with guns and firecrackers.

"The Eid'l Fitr is not all about firing of weapons and firecrackers. The most important are prayers, unity, and sharing. Islam does not teach about such things during Ramadan and Eid'l Fitr," said Sema, who is also secretary general of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), once the country's largest Muslim rebel group that signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

"In Mindanao, our worry is that people may get hit by stray bullets," said chief of the Philippine National Police Avelino Razon.

"We have set up checkpoints to guard against firearms. We appeal to our Muslim brethren not to use their firearms," Razon said in an interview on local radio.

God is great

The road to Eid'l Fitr started in Muslim communities as early as Thursday night, when Islamic faithful observed the Takbiran.

In the Takbiran, groups of scholars went around communities, reciting "Allahu Akbar" which means God is Great.

In the old days, the Takbiran was performed while scholars were walking, but these days, it's by motorcade.

"We are happy that Ramadan ended peacefully," Sema said.

Elsewhere in the country, Muslims gathered in their communities for prayers, and later shared food with families, relatives and neighbors as part of the Eid'l Fitr celebrations.

Golden Mosque

In Manila, some 5,000 Muslim devotees flocked to the Quirino Grandstand in Luneta, while some 20,000 people trooped to the Golden Mosque in Quiapo, according to police estimates.

The Manila Police District said the Eid'l Fitr celebrations, which began with an early morning prayer, were generally peaceful.

Datu Amerol Ambiong, chair of the Muslim Peace and Order Coordination Council, said congregational prayers for Eid started at around 6:30 a.m. at the Quiapo mosque and in Luneta.

"This is a time for Muslims to give charity and celebrate with family and friends the completion of a month of blessings and joy," he said.

The breaking of the fast completes the monthlong abstention from food and physical pleasures from dawn to dusk.

Three days of festivities

Muslim communities prepared for three days of festivities, shopping for food and decorating homes for reunions after prayers, Ambiong said.

The early morning gathering yesterday was followed by festivities, including the lighting of fireworks, he added, saying that Muslims—dressed in their best clothes—visited their families and friends and gave gifts especially to children.

Eid'l Fitr is one of the two major festivals in the Muslim calendar, the other being the Eid Al Adha, which marks the end of the hajj or pilgrimage.

More meaningful

For many Muslims, fasting during the Ramadan had become more meaningful this year because of support from other faiths, said Mahid Mutilan of the Bishops-Ulama Conference (BUC).

On Sept. 30, Catholic bishops and leaders of other Christian denominations hosted and even joined Muslim religious leaders in a Ramadan dusk dinner at the start of a two-day peace dialogue in Davao City.

In the early '80s, peace activists organized the "Duyog Ramadan," not only as venue for Christian-Muslim dialogues, but also as a way for followers of both faiths for deeper interfaith involvement and peace-building.

Interfaith dialogue

"Duyog" is a Visayan word which literally means "to do along with."

But unlike the intense homogeneity of past dialogues in Duyog Ramadan, religious leaders, this time, were more bent on drawing the line of separation between the Christian church and Islam—initially, in terms of issues that events have currently associated each faith with.

For one, this is because the interfaith dialogue of today "is not [about] a study of comparative religions," said Aminda Saño, a Christian peace worker of the Silsilah Dialogue Movement based in Zamboanga City.

With a report from Reuters

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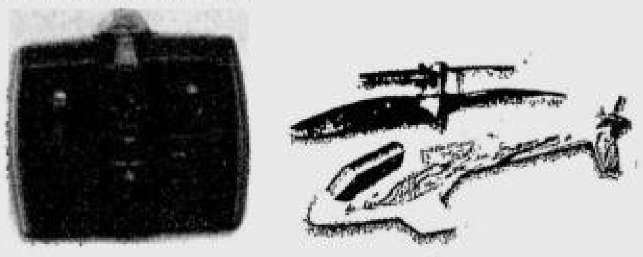

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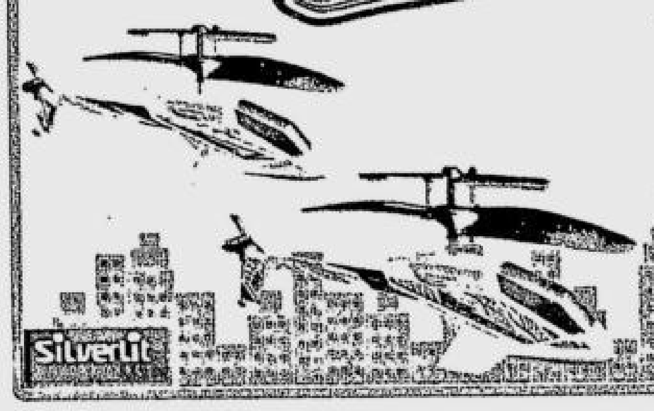

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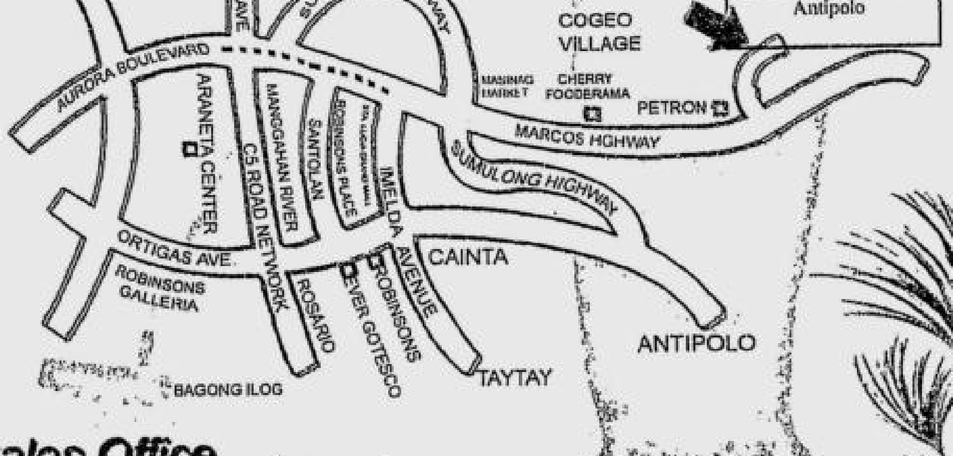

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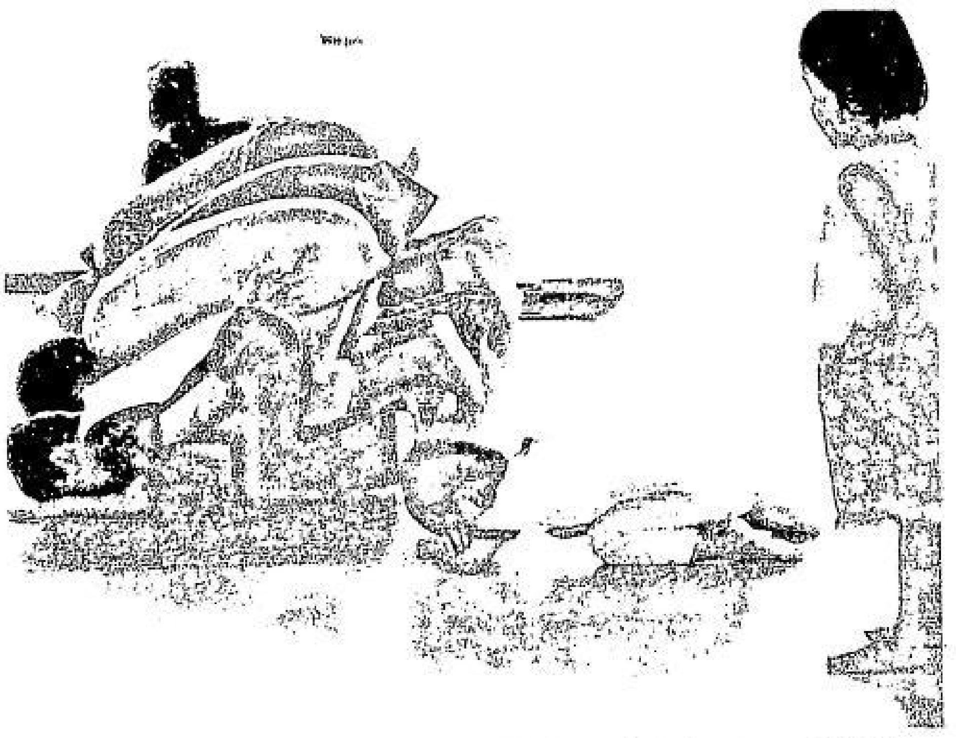
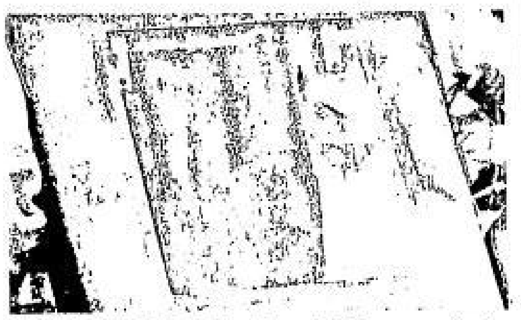
IT'S FAMILY TIME: The Hussin family of Maharlika Village in Taguig celebrates Ramadan's end by feasting on traditional Muslim dishes. RAFFY LERMA



YOUNG BELIEVERS pray at the Golden Masjid Mosque in Quiapo to mark Eid'l Fitr. In Cotabato City, there was less gunfire contrary to previous years, say observers. There has been no report of casualties so unlike the annual New Year blasts. EDWIN BACASMAS



GOING HOME: A Muslim girl rides a pedicab after saying her prayers at the Luneta Grandstand where 5,000 devotees conducted congregational prayers for the Eid starting at 6:30 a.m. REM ZAMORA

KEEPING THE PEACE at the Blue Mosque where the Muslim community prepares for three days of festivities. Filipino Muslims usually explain to their Christian friends that the Eid is Christmas and fiesta rolled into one.

Al Gore, UN ...

From page A1

States for Gore to run for president in 2008, which he has so far said he does not plan to do.

GORE

Gore called the award meaningful because of his co-winner, calling the IPCC the "world's preeminent scientific body devoted to improving our understanding of the climate crisis."

He said that global warming was not a political issue but a worldwide crisis.

Planetary emergency

"We face a true planetary emergency ... It is a moral and spiritual challenge to all of humanity," he said. "It is also our greatest opportunity to lift global consciousness to a higher level."

Gore said he planned to donate his share of the prize money to the Alliance for Climate Protection, a bipartisan nonprofit organization that is devoted to changing public opinion in the US and around the world about the urgency of solving the climate crisis.

In its citation, the Nobel committee lauded Gore's "strong commitment, reflected in political activity, lectures, films and books, has strengthened the struggle against climate change. He is probably the single individual who has done most to create greater worldwide understanding of the measures that need to be adopted."

No Bush bashing

Ole Danbolt Mjøs, chairman of the prize committee, said the award should not be seen as singling out the administration of US President George W. Bush for criticism.

But, in a nod to the 2008 elections, he said "I am very much in support for all who support changes."

"Al Gore has fought the environment battle even as vice president," Mjoes said. "Many did not listen ... but he carried on."

The last American to win the prize, or share it, was former US President Jimmy Carter, who won in 2002.

In its citation, the committee said that Gore "has for a long time been one of the world's leading environmentalist politicians" and cited his awareness at an early stage "of the climatic challenges the world is facing.

2 decades of work

The committee cited the IPCC for its two decades of scientific reports that have "created an ever-broader informed consensus about the connection between human activities and global warming. Thousands of scientists and officials from over 100 countries have collaborated to achieve greater certainty as to the scale of the warming."

It went on to say that because of the panel's efforts, global warming has been increasingly recognized. In the 1980s it "seemed to be merely an interesting hypothesis, the 1990s produced firmer evidence in its support. In the last few years, the connections have become even clearer and the consequences still more apparent."

"It was a surprise," said Carola Traverso Saibante, spokeswoman for the IPCC. "We would have been happy even if (Gore) had received it alone because it is a recognition of the importance of this issue."

Skepticism

The prize decision was greeted with skepticism in some circles, however.

"Awarding it to Al Gore cannot be seen as anything other than a political statement. Awarding it to the IPCC is well-founded," said Bjørn Lomborg, author of "The Skeptical Environmentalist."

He criticized Gore's film as having "some very obvious mistakes, like the argument that we're going to see six meters of sea-level rise," he said.

"They (Nobel committee) have a unique platform in getting people's attention on this issue, and I regret they have used it to make a political statement."

This year, climate change has been at the top of the world agenda. The UN climate panel has been releasing its reports; talks on a replacement for the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate are set to resume; and on Europe's northern fringe, where the awards committee works, concern about the melting Arctic has been underscored by this being the International Polar Year.

Global awareness

José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, said the prize would help to continue the globally growing awareness of climate change.

"Their contributions to the prevention of climate change have raised awareness all over the world. Their work has been an inspiration for politicians and citizens alike," he said in a statement. *AP*

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House for sale

EDITORIALS

IT SITS ON SEVERAL HECTARES IN QUEZON CITY, has an untold number of rooms and can accommodate hundreds of cars. It costs only a few billion pesos to maintain. Not least, it comes with basketball courts, school buildings and farm-to-market roads, all accessible through a magical portal called the pork barrel.

The catch? There is no catch. The House of Representatives enjoys what is called the power of the purse. This power does not only mean the constitutional privilege of overseeing the use of government funds, but also the congressional privilege of seeing everything through the prism of money.

It was thus no surprise that Thursday's breakfast meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang was marked by the handing out of thick envelopes, fat with cash. According to many sources in the House itself, the envelopes contained anywhere between P200,000 and P500,000—variously described and rationalized as a "token of remembrance," "a send-off gift," a form of "*tulong*" or help.

Ordinary people like us would call it payola, or an outright bribe, but that kind of simplistic understanding is precisely what makes us ordinary.

A bribe for what? you may ask. For inoculating the President against the possible filing of a stronger impeachment complaint. It is in the deepest interest of Malacañang to consider the demonstrably weak complaint against Ms Arroyo filed by lawyer Roel Pulido as properly initiated. That, because of the strictures of the Constitution and as forcefully explained in a Supreme Court's ruling, would vaccinate the President against a second, possibly more substantial, impeachment case in the next 12 months.

To be sure, and as a three-term congressman told the INQUIRER: "There was no need to tell anybody [at the breakfast meeting in Malacañang] to support the referral of the impeachment complaint against the President because it was already agreed that it will no longer be the Speaker who will transmit the complaint."

In fact, Speaker Jose de Venecia did inhibit himself from personally transmitting the Pulido complaint to the House committee on rules, on the ground that he wanted to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. (Against De Venecia, Pulido has filed an ethics case with the House and a graft case with the Office of the Ombudsman.) But the lack of an outright request to "support the referral" at that breakfast only means that support was already assured—and that in fact the majority congressmen were there to receive their just reward.

In other words, it was all about the money. Remember, a Malacañang operative offered opposition congressmen as much as P2 million to endorse the Pulido complaint, because opposition endorsement would have legitimized it. Now administration congressmen have been given spending money—and promised more flexibility in the use of their pork barrel funds—to breathe life into the stupid Pulido complaint in order to kill it.

A Palace official protested the "political intrigue," saying our honorable congressmen were "not for sale." No, of course not. They just like to receive expensive stationery.

Love in Islam

YESTERDAY, THE ENTIRE COUNTRY CELEBRATED Eid al-Fitr, the fifth time since RA 9177 became law. Setting the date for this year's observance of the great Islamic moveable feast, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a proclamation which recognized the need to "bring the religious and cultural significance of the Eid al-Fitr to the fore of national consciousness."

The occasion may be a good opportunity for the country's Catholic majority to rethink its understanding of "forbidding" Islam. We can do worse than to start with an essay published in Islamica magazine and available online. G. Willow Wilson, a Cairo-based author, writes: "There is a common assumption among non-speakers that Arabic—and thus, Islam—lacks an equivalent of agapé, a Greek term used by Christians to mean the boundary-less, self-sacrificing love between believers, or between a believer and God." But despite what many Christian websites assert, Wilson says, there is an Arabic word for self-sacrificing love. "The Arabic word for agapé is *mahubba*." It has fallen into disuse, Wilson says, but "if resurrected, it has the power to change the world."

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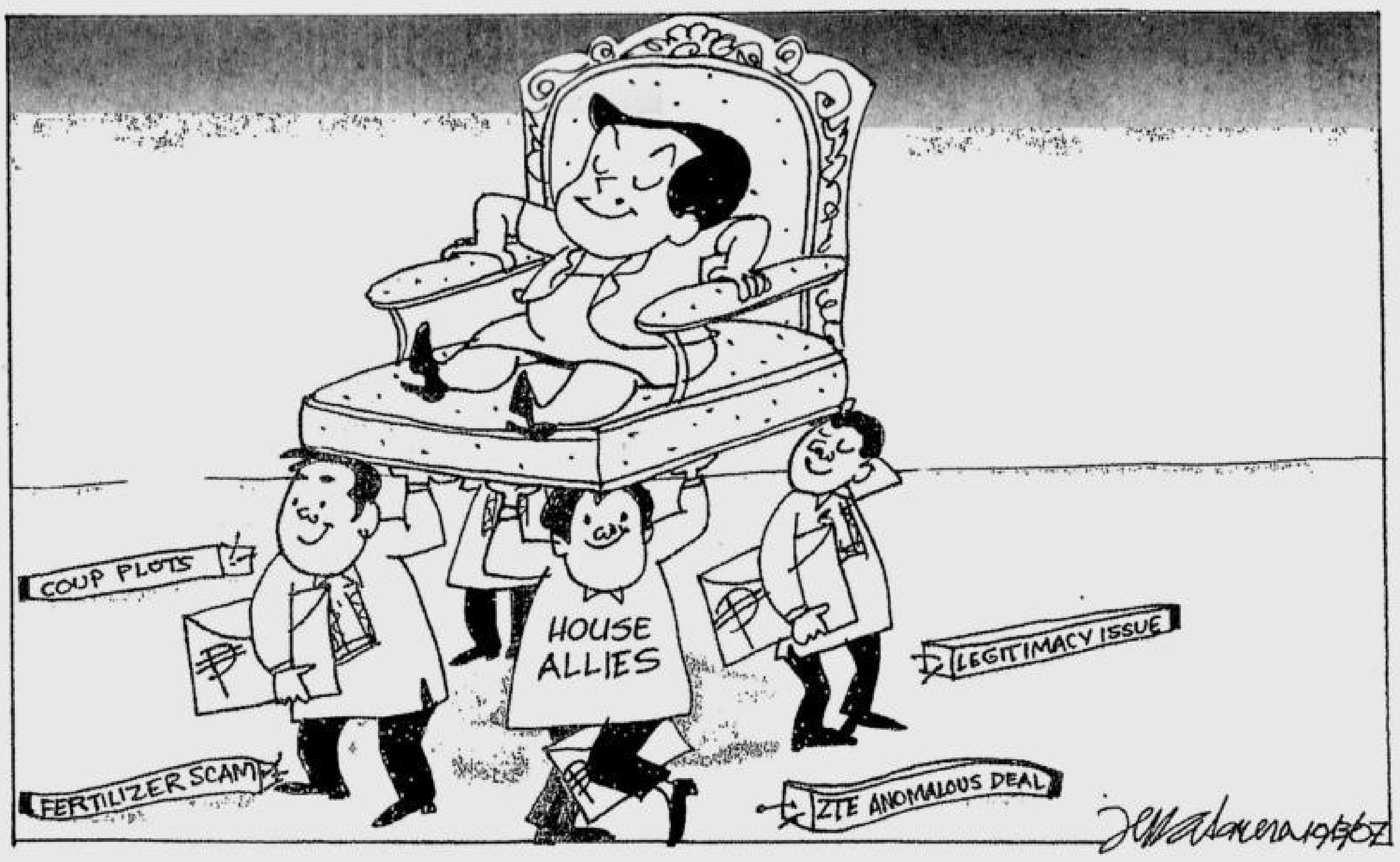

Disclosures and closures

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

LIKE HIS FORMER CLASSMATES AND COLleagues in academe who have known him closely or casually, I too was disappointed that former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri failed to seize the moment at the Senate hearing in order to disclose everything he knew about the controversial ZTE broadband deal. I also believe that basic self-respect now demands that he should quit this government. But that is his call, not ours.

I do not think it is fair to call him a coward. He is caught in a conflictive situation, and we must recognize that every person has reasons for not doing what may seem heroic at first glance. After endorsing it, Neri obviously wanted to stop the onerous and immoral contract. That explains why he bared himself to columnist Jarius Bondoc. But heroism was farthest from his mind. He was afraid of triggering a political upheaval that could bring down the government. Many will take this as a sign of cowardice, but from where Neri stands, it is understandable.

A kinder take on Neri is possible if we make a distinction between utterance and information, which is at the heart of all communication. Utterance refers to the words we speak. Information is what our listeners take from our utterances and demeanor. I am convinced that Neri was at pains to disclose something without having to utter it. He made no effort to conceal the fact that he was operating under strict orders from Malacañang not to implicate the President. His utterances and non-linguistic behavior betrayed this.

If he simply wanted to clear the President, he would have stopped with the alleged bribe offer from Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos. He would have said he did not think then that it was serious enough to let the President know about it. Or, he would have said that he told the President, but she told him to ignore the bribe and to proceed with the objective evaluation of the ZTE proposal. It is, I think, what Malacañang would have wanted him to say. But this is not what he said at the hearing.

Neri reveals that Abalos offered him a bribe in exchange for endorsing the ZTE project. He states that he felt bothered and so he informed the President about it. He says that the President told him to refuse the bribe. Then he abruptly stops—as if wanting to take back what he has just said. Transformed suddenly into a robot, he recites the mantra of so-called "executive privilege."

But this too is a form of communication. What was he communicating? The following, I think: First, that he was under duress not to divulge anything more than he had already told media. Second, that he was struck that the President was not bothered at all by his report about Abalos. Third, that, in fact, the President told him to approve the contract anyway.

Except in a courtroom proceeding, these pieces of information are so clear to any reasonable listener that to demand more explicit confirmation of Ms Arroyo's knowledge of the corruption in the ZTE deal would be superfluous. Yet we insist that disclosures must be total before they can be understood. It is symptomatic of the national obsession with juridical closures. For all the political adventurism that has marked our recent history, we ironically think that nothing is settled until the courts have spoken. We are so fixated with utterances admissible in legal proceedings that we fail to see how people in everyday life form reasonable conclusions about events in their environment in order precisely to "move on" (to use a politically-laden phrase).

Thank heavens not everyone hangs by the thread of unresolved legal issues. In the meantime, there are political closures. The fact that GMA or her husband has not been charged or found guilty of any crime does not negate the certainty that the majority of Filipinos have closed the political book on her. Her consistently negative approval ratings in recent surveys attest to this. The rejection of most of her candidates in the last senatorial election shows this in no uncertain terms. The stunning election to the Senate of the detained young military officer Antonio Trillanes IV, accused of leading a mutiny against her government, confirms this closure. Ms Arroyo governs on the sufferance of a nation still recovering from past upheavals. Everyone awaits her last days in the presidency.

There are moral closures too. No one today, not even its most rabid supporters, thinks of this administration as an emblem of good government or of ethical leadership. Those who still see politics as a contest between the forces of good and evil are in no doubt at all as to which side Ms Arroyo is aligned with. No other administration has been as brazen as this one in giving cash to legislators, election inspectors and bishops.

And there are social closures. After Marcos, no other head of government has earned the resolute distrust of the citizenry as much as GMA. Again, survey after survey expresses this. More than at any other time, distrust permeates the whole political system today because of the way she has run the government. She ought to listen to how ordinary folk talk about her on AM radio. She may not sense this now, but it will be difficult for her not to notice it when she finally leaves public office. She will receive none of the lingering affection and awe that Cory and Erap continue to bask in when they are among ordinary people. No one with any hope of winning will want to be associated with her in any future election. That is social closure.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

WTO battle being fought all over again

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT LOOKS TO ME THAT PROF. MERLIN MAgallona's reasons for claiming that the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) is unconstitutional are strikingly similar (enough to give a sense of déjà vu) to those he offered when he questioned the constitutionality of the WTO agreement before the Supreme Court, over 10 years ago. The Supreme Court gave them short shrift, but it seems the WTO battle is being fought all over again.

The principles on which the Jpepa are the same as those driving WTO—national treatment, most-favored-nation treatment, prohibition of performance requirements, among them. These were what were objected to before, and these are what are being objected to now. Which is puzzling, because at least 150 other countries agreed to these principles (in WTO), which are also in the EPAs that Japan has signed with our Asean neighbors. Yet we seem to be the only one experiencing the kind of agony that we do (self-inflicted, I suspect) over them.

As for former Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano, given the encomiums he received from Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, one is almost afraid to question his opinion on the matter, but one will go ahead anyway, at the risk of being regarded as either speaking with all the courage of one's ignorance or having the courage to call attention to the fact that the emperor has no clothes. It's the reader's choice.

Feliciano asserts that the Philippine side did not include the complete list of all currently existing constitutional and statutory provisions limiting foreign equity or ownership in certain sectors. And he gives a "dramatic example" of omission: the existing constitutional reservations on ownership and operation of public utilities is omitted from the Philippine Schedule in Part 1 of Annex 7. He also points out other omitted constitutional reservations, such as those relating to the practice of all professions, to ownership and administration of educational institutions, to mass media, and to advertising. These omissions, he avers, means that Japanese businessmen under Jpepa would think they are now entitled to own more than 40 percent (or 30 percent or 0 percent as the case may be) in these sectors, which would be in direct contravention of the Constitution. And which would then cause all sorts of legal headaches.

He is right. Annex 7 does not contain the above-cited reservations. But Annex 6 of the same agreement does. What looks to me like the constitutional and other statutory limitations on these activities (except mass media) are listed in Part IB of Annex 6, filling up 114 pages, in fact, compared to the 59 pages that make up the Japan list.

What happened to mass media? Does this mean that Japanese will come rushing to own these? No, because Annex 6 is a positive list, meaning that if an item is not part of the list, then it is not part of the agreement and the activity cannot be undertaken, period (in contrast to Annex 7 which is a negative list). As an aside, I am given to understand that the negotiations on Annex 6 of the Jpepa were handled by Neda Deputy Director General Marge Songco, who apparently dotted all the i's and crossed all the t's, to the chagrin but reluctant admiration of her Japanese counterparts. Score 1 for a beleaguered Neda.

In any case, however, it is not as if the Jpepa is written in stone, and binds us forevermore. After all, it can be amended anytime by agreement among the parties. It is scheduled to be reviewed in 2011 and every five years thereafter (unless otherwise agreed by both parties, which gives even more flexibility), it can be terminated by either party with one-year advance notice.

In any case, and with all due respect, it is difficult to see why the Senate committees on foreign relations and trade and industry seem to be acting like a court to decide on (old and tired and settled) constitutionality issues, when the Supreme Court is the final arbiter in this regard, as Santiago herself pointed out at the beginning of the hearings. The time would be better spent hearing the pros and cons of the Jpepa in regard to poverty alleviation, to employment, to trade—i.e., concentrating on the economic and social costs and benefits.

In this regard, it should be pointed out that some of the assertions with respect to the costs of Jpepa are gross exaggerations. A "dramatic example" of this, borrowing from Feliciano's terminology, involves the automotive industry. According to the opponents of Jpepa, this industry, which "employs 350,000 workers," would suffer, and in particular the assembly sector would "die," because the investments arising from Jpepa would all go to the parts sector.

Come off it. With regard to employment, the figures are closer to 77,000—15,000 in assembly, 33,000 in parts and 29,000 in dealerships—a far cry from 350,000, which represents more than 10 percent of total manufacturing jobs. In the second place, under Jpepa, the tariff reduction will be gradual, and for certain automotive products that are locally assembled, no tariff reductions will be implemented (this will be negotiated only in 2009). In the third place, for the auto assembly sector to become competitive, a well-developed and highly competitive parts industry is required—and this Jpepa will help us achieve.

All this information is supplied by Fita Aldaba of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

Can we try for a little more accuracy please?

National pride in sports

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

IF YOU FEEL PROUD, DEAR READER, NOT OF Manny Pacquiao specifically, but of your country's general achievements in sports, then you are a normal Filipino, and a normal human being. You are one of 84 percent (as of 2003) of adult Filipinos who feel likewise.

In 2003, the percentages of various nationalities proud of their country in the realm of sports were: Ireland 95, New Zealand 93, Venezuela 92, Hungary 90, Australia 89, South Korea 88, Latvia 86, Czech Republic 85, Slovak Republic 85, United States 85, **Philippines 84**, Canada 84, Japan 84, Slovenia 84, Austria 82, South Africa 81, Spain 81, Sweden 81, Bulgaria 79, Germany (East) 79, Portugal 79, Norway 74, Uruguay 72, Chile 70, Denmark 69, Russia 68, Poland 67, Switzerland 66, Germany (West) 65, Great Britain 63, France 61, Finland 52, Taiwan 47, Israel (Jews) 40, and Israel (Arabs) 39.

In 32 out of 35 nationalities, majorities are proud of their country's achievements in sports. Filipinos are quite normal, only slightly above the median of 81 percent. We are as proud as Americans, and far prouder than our billiards rivals, the Taiwanese.

The statistics cited are from the 2003 module on National Identity of the International Social Survey Program (ISSP), which does a cross-country survey every year. ISSP global datasets are available for public research at the SWS Survey Data Library. SWS did 16 ISSP surveys over 1991-2006. It is now soliciting sponsors for the forthcoming **2007 ISSP Survey on Leisure Time and Sports** in the Philippines.

Sources of pride. The ISSP National Identity module probed into 10 potential sources of national pride. Here are the national percentages feeling Very/Somewhat Proud of the Philippines, by source, in two (1995 and 2003) surveys on national identity:

	1995	2003
Achievements in sports	80	84
History	82	82
Achievements in arts and literature	72	78
Scientific and technological achievements	58	66
The armed forces	54	57
The way democracy works	52	54
Fair & equal treatment of all groups	51	51
Economic achievements	51	47
The social security system	52	45
Political influence in the world	39	36

Thus **sports** and **history** have been the top two sources of Filipino pride. A close third is **arts/literature.**

For 7 of the 10 (in 2003) categories, most Filipinos are proud of the country. But, in the bottom three categories, less than half are proud. In the top 7 the numbers either rose or were stable over 1995-2003. In the bottom 3—economic achievements, social security, and world influence—the numbers dropped.

Social class. Filipinos in the middle-to-upper (ABC) classes are particularly proud about our country's **history**; on this they scored 91 percent in 2003. Their pride is similar to that of the D and E classes when it comes to Filipino achievements in arts/literature and sports.

But, on all the other things, the ABCs are much less proud than the lower classes. In fact, for the categories **armed forces** and below, most ABCs are **not** proud of their country. Worst of all, only 23 percent of ABCs are proud of the Philippines' **political influence in the world**.

A source of insecurity. A feeling of having "political influence in the world" is a sense of having international respect. Its very low score as a source of Filipino pride marks it as our Achilles-heel.

I see this lack of pride, or sense of insecurity, in how Filipinos are treated **in relation to other nationalities** as behind the great indignation, especially among our ABC classes, over the "Desperate Housewives" gaffe. It recalls other offenses—the Filipina raped by an American sailor, the Filipina hanged in Singapore despite our President's plea for a short reprieve, the non-admittance of our Vice President to a party in Mexico because of a missing invitation card, the insistence that our Senate President remove his shoes for inspection at an American airport—against Filipino dignity.

Of course, Filipinos are not alone in feeling a lack of adequate international respect. In 2003, the percentages of various nationalities proud of their country's political influence in the world were: United States 74, Canada 68, Ireland 67, France 59, New Zealand 59, Australia 53, Great Britain 53, South Africa 53, Spain 53, Chile 53, Norway 52, Venezuela 52, Denmark 51, Switzerland 50, Germany (East) 49, Germany (West) 49, Israel (Arabs) 46, Austria 45, Sweden 40, Finland 38, **Philippines 36**, Poland 36, Israel (Jews) 35, Portugal 33, Uruguay 33, Russia 32, Slovenia 32, Japan 29, Hungary 27, Czech Republic 25, Latvia 25, Slovak Republic 20, Taiwan 20, South Korea 16, and Bulgaria 15.

Thus, in only 14 of the 35 surveyed nationalities do half or more of the citizens feel proud of their country's political standing in the world. Expectedly, Americans are the most confident. South Africans and Venezuelans, despite being mostly poor people, are also mostly proud of their international standing. Interestingly, Arab Israelis are more confident than Jewish Israelis.

We Filipinos are not at the very bottom, but rank 21st. I did not expect so few Russians to be confident about their standing. There are 14 nationalities, including Japanese, Taiwanese and South Koreans, who—whether they express themselves openly or not—may be even more sensitive than we are to cross-national breaches of respect.

* * *

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Forgiveness in politics

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, SJ

John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

DOES FORGIVENESS HAVE A PLACE IN POLITICS? Isn't it a personal virtue applicable to our private or personal relationships rather than to affairs of the state? Doesn't it short-circuit or even undermine justice, the implementation of which is one of the main functions of the state?

These questions seem to be at the heart of the current controversy over the government's offer of amnesty to former President Joseph Estrada. They also seem to be the concern of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power Inc. which has placed ads in newspapers admonishing people not to simply forgive and forget the "sins" of Estrada in the past.

But while the government may still be thinking about its options, a large segment of the populace has made up its mind. In fact, even before the verdict of the Sandiganbayan came out, Social Weather Stations, in its July 2007 survey, found that majority of the residents in Metro Manila and nearby provinces are in favor of pardon for the embattled former president (48 percent for immediate pardon; 38 percent for a gradual pardon). This may appear to be founded on whether they believe Estrada is guilty or not (66 percent say they don't believe he is guilty). But another question in that survey reveals something else. Asked to react to the statement "Guilty or not guilty for the crime of plunder, I forgive former President Estrada," 77 percent said they agree to the statement, including 73 percent of Class ABC.

In our radio program on dzMM, a caller explains this phenomenon by saying, "*Kristiyano tayong bansa; kung ang Diyos nga nagpapatawad, tao pa kaya*(We are a Christian nation; if God can forgive, more so man)." What seems to be operative then in these significant survey findings is the Filipino's religiosity, if not piety, wherein forgiveness is considered a virtue.

But is this justified in the realm of politics? If the former president is given pardon, for example, doesn't that further weaken the already-weak system of law and justice in this country?

Certainly, in the realm of our private and personal lives, forgiveness is a noble virtue. The Christian faith teaches that, following the injunction of Christ to forgive as many times as possible our enemies. But a crime against the public is more complex than the offenses we commit against one another. What is involved is the common good. At stake is the very order and stability of a society which rests on the observance of laws.

Even the Church recognizes all of this. Through the centuries, it has developed a body of social teachings that, for example, expounds on the concept of social sin on the one hand, and social justice on the other hand. It teaches that faith is not only a personal conviction but a social and a communal act as well. More particularly, on the question of settling social injustices, the late Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical on the "Mercy of God," declares: "Forgiveness does not cancel out the objective requirements of justice. Properly understood, justice constitutes, so to speak, the goal of forgiveness. In no passage of the gospel message does forgiveness, or mercy as its source, mean indulgence toward evil, toward scandals, toward injury or insult. In any case, reparation for evil and scandal, compensation for injury, and satisfaction for insult are conditions for forgiveness."

Clearly the Christian faith does not absolutize forgiveness, especially in consideration of the common good.

Perhaps what we are seeing in this rush to forgive the former president is the corruption of this Christian value. This is borne out by the 1988 report of Sen. Leticia Shahani on the value system of the Filipinos. The report finds that among the weaknesses of our value system is our "extreme personalism." Everything is brought down to the personal—one's taste, preference, inclinations. Consequently, sentimentality and emotionalism run amok even in the public realm.

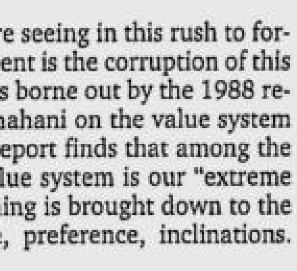
Interestingly, Fr. John J Carroll, SJ, in his recent book, "Engaging Society: the Sociologist in a War Zone," and in his earlier monograph, "Forgiving or Forgetting?" points to this forgiving attitude of the Filipino as one of the root causes of the national mess we find ourselves in today. Through a thorough socio-historical analysis of the country, he blames the well-entrenched interests of the aristocracy or the elite for corrupting our economy and emasculating our democracy. In two instances in the past, however, when the Filipino people had an opportunity to check or control the abuses of the elite, it chose to back away or, as President Macapagal-Arroyo would say, move on.

The first occasion was the years after World War II when the members of the elite who collaborated with Japan were set free by a governmental pardon. The second was during the post-Marcos era, when the Marcoses and their cronies were not made to account for their crimes. He writes: "Philippine society's easy attitude toward retribution does seem to convey the message that the common good, and the rights of those who have suffered, are not so important after all. Which brings to mind an observation based on the thought of Emile Durkheim, namely that one can judge the 'common conscience' or culture of a society by what it punishes. For punishment is not simply an attempt to exact vengeance or even to prevent a repetition of the offense; it has a more positive function, namely the reassertion and reaffirmation of society's values when they have been violated."

His conclusion may serve as a warning to us if we do not proceed with caution as regards the current Estrada controversy: "Not to react as a community would be to reduce a community's values to a matter of personal preference; and if this goes too far, there is grave danger that the community will no longer know what it stands for ... and will dissolve."

India's Burma dilemma

WORLD VIEW



Mira Kamdar

THE WORLD HAS BEEN HORRIFIED BY GRAPHIC images of the latest crackdown by Burma's (Myanmar's) military junta. But the bullets and clubs unleashed on Buddhist monks have worked. The monks have retreated, and an eerie normalcy has returned to Rangoon (Yangon), the principal city and former capital.

That crackdown continues under cover of darkness. When the sun sets, fear rises. Everyone listens half awake for the dreaded knock on the door. Any night, the military's agents can come for you, take you away, and make sure you are never heard from again.

In recent nights, the junta's henchmen have burst into monasteries, lined up sleepy monks, and smashed their shaved heads against the walls, spattering them with blood. Scores of others, perhaps hundreds, have been carted off for interrogation, torture, or execution. The nighttime assault on a United Nations employee and her family made international news, but hundreds of less well-connected Burmese have been similarly abused.

For 45 years, Burma's people have been subjected to the junta's reign of terror. My father was born in Rangoon long before the 1962 coup that brought the current regime to power. Afterwards, many of my relatives, prosperous Indian merchants who had settled in Burma for generations, abandoned homes and businesses in order to save their skins as chaos enveloped the city.

A relative who now lives in Bangkok, but who returned part-time in response to overtures from Burma's cash-starved rulers, recalled those days: "We lived through hell. We never knew when we woke up each morning what would happen. People were being denounced left and right. They could just come and take you away and take everything away from you." Those who couldn't leave, or didn't want to, have lived with this fear ever since.

The United States and Europe have issued strong statements condemning the crackdown and calling upon Burma's neighbors, especially India and China, to exert their influence on the regime. The response from both has been muted (as it has from Thailand, which also has strong economic ties with Burma).

China balks at interfering in the "internal affairs" of a neighbor from whom it gets precious natural gas and potential access to the sea. India, which "normalized" bilateral relations a few years ago, is reluctant to alienate Burma's military, with which it has worked closely to counter rebels in India's northeast who have been using the common border to tactical advantage. To this end, India has provided aid, including tanks and training, to Burma's military.

But the main reason for India's good relations with Burma's ruling thugs is the country's vast and still largely unexploited energy reserves, which India desperately needs to fuel its economic boom. India has invested $150 million in a gas exploration deal off the Arakan coast and India's state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp. and Gas Authority of India Ltd. have taken a 30 percent stake in two offshore gas fields, in direct competition with PetroChina, which has also been given a stake.

India and China are simply doing what the US and European countries have done for so long: trump rhetoric about democracy and human rights with policies that serve their strategic and energy security interests. US relations with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are two examples, and America's Chevron and France's Total, two of the world's oil giants, continue to do a brisk business in Burma, thanks to loopholes in the sanctions.

But the rise of India and China means that the time-tested posture of Western democracies toward emerging states to "do as we say, not as we do" will become less tenable. If the EU and the US want democratic India to act according to its stated moral values and not its vital national interests when these appear to conflict, they had better be prepared to do the same.

Feeling the heat, including threats from some US senators to link America's nuclear deal with India to its actions in Burma, India has announced that it is asking for the release of Burmese democratic opposition leader and Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest. But the credibility of all democratic regimes, not just India's, is at stake in what unfolds in Burma. ***Project Syndicate/Asia Society***

Mira Kamdar is a fellow of the Asia Society and the author of "Planet India: How the Fastest-Growing Democracy is Transforming America and the World."

Sober

"MUST GET OUT! MUST KEEP BUSY!" MY MIND IS SCREAMing. And my body dutifully complies. Five steps away from the north entrance, I count five couples HHWW (holding hands while walking) with all the matching sweety-sweety stuff, oblivious of the crowd, oblivious of my envious stare. I look down at my empty hands. I start to turn back. Maybe this isn't such a good idea after all, I am beginning to think.

YOUNG BLOOD

Cheryl Polican

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

After much debate, I finally enter the mall. The croaky speakers blare: "Three months and I'm still sober...."

A chill runs down my spine. Kelly Clarkson. Sober. Ahh yes, I remember. How can I not? I have listened to it countless times before, singing along, emoting. Maybe, just maybe, and some day soon, I'll be able to utter the same line with the same conviction. So-ber! Yes, I am sober!

Never did I imagine myself dreading such wonderful days as Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. It wasn't long ago when I waited with excitement and anticipation for the end of yet another week. Without you though, the end is no different from the beginning. Where I once was ecstatic over Republic Act 9492 (which turned holiday economics into law), I now dread the looming long weekend without you. As if two days weren't long enough! Even the arrival of August, my extra special month, failed to lift my spirits up. What good are birthdays without someone to spend them with?

I swallow the lump forming in my throat as I see another couple approaching. They look so happy together—his arms around her shoulders, her arms around his waist, both of them laughing gaily.

That used to be you and me. We had such a great time laughing, didn't we? My cornball moments would trigger a series of laughter which often ended with us laughing at my funnier "hic-hic" laugh. We'd hold hands, my left on your right, never the other way around, except when crossing the street. We'd talk all the way to the restaurant but would not have anything to say while eating except "Chow time!" Were we always that hungry? We would walk some distance, talk a little and laugh a little more before finally heading home. In the parking lot, you'd walk me to my side of the car and look around to see if anyone was looking before planting a quick kiss on my cheek. You'd then whisper a soft "I love you" in my ear before closing the door. I love you, too. Oh God, I miss you...

I tear away my gaze from the lovebirds and try to focus. "Now is not the time nor is it the place to be breaking down," I scold myself, already feeling my cheeks flushing, my tears welling. I quicken my pace, my eyes searching wildly for an escape. But everywhere I turn, there they are—arms around each other, lips touching, hands tightly clasped, taunting, mocking.

"Get away from me!" I hear myself say. It falls on deaf ears. "Go away!" I repeat. I run blindly, looking for refuge. I run and run, with only one thought in my mind: finding you.

Then I awoke with a start, my head throbbing furiously. I remembered it all: the mall, the people, the loneliness, the tears... My hand automatically reached for my cheeks, and found tears indeed, fresh tears. It's OK, it was just a dream. That's all it was, a wicked but harmless dream. Comforted by the thought, I turned to you. A sickening feeling began to rise as it dawned on me once again. As before, the madness began, and the tears flowed uncontrollably.

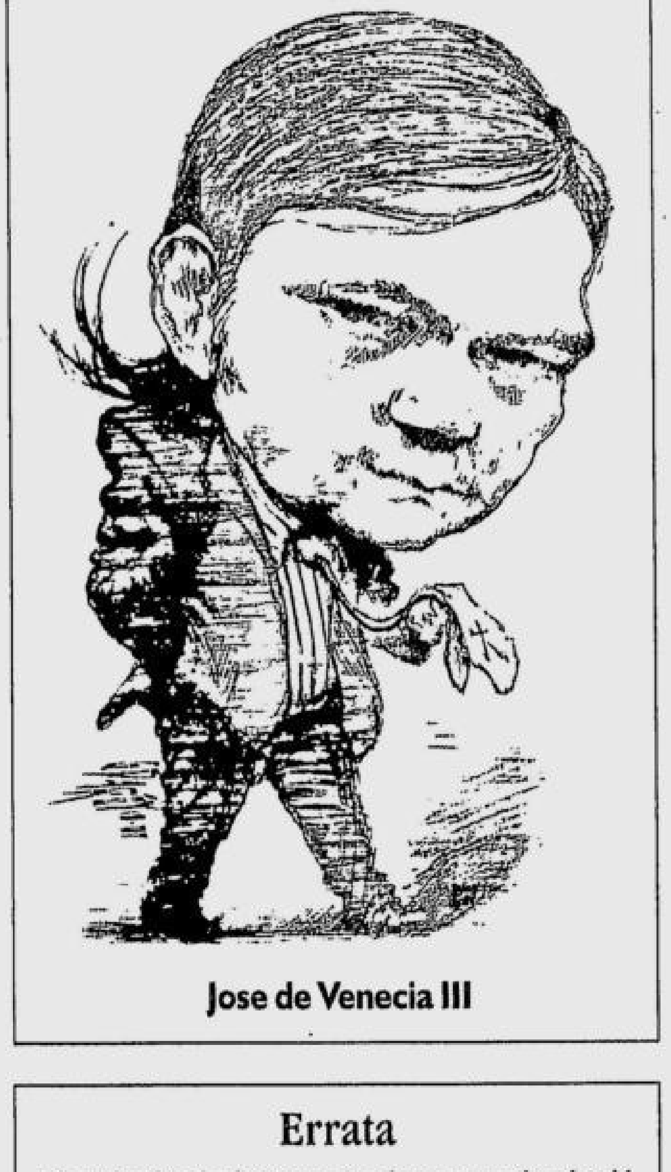
Somewhere in the building, a song was playing. It was Fergie this time: "... and big girls don't cry..."

Cheryl Polican, 24, is an IT specialist at Philippine Airlines.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS



Jose de Venecia III

Errata

The title of Ambeth Ocampo's column yesterday should have read "'La Naval' and a medallion from a Cambodian king," not "... from a Thai king."

* * *

Also in yesterday's issue, in the seventh line of the second paragraph of Raul C. Pangalangan's column, the name of the veteran journalist referred to is "Miguel Suarez," not Michael Suarez.

CHD disappointed with SC decision on infant formula ads

LAST OCT. 9, 2007, THE SUPREME COURT voided the government ban on ads that promote breast milk substitutes and supplements. It ruled that the ban was "unduly restrictive" and "more than necessary to further the avowed governmental interest of promoting the health of infants and young children"; and that "the laudable concern of the respondent (DOH) for the promotion of the health of infants and young children cannot justify the absolute overarching ban."

A law that will protect the health and welfare of Filipino infants and children is long overdue. The Milk Code was passed in 1986 but its revised implementing rules and regulations (RIRR) only came 20 years later. During these years, breast milk substitutes and supplements were "visible" even in government hospitals and clinics. The delay in the Milk Code's implementation tells us that the giant milk companies are very influential and powerful.

Harmful microorganisms intrinsically found in infant formulas have long emerged as an international public health concern. There is as yet no existing technology that can guarantee the safety of infant formulas 100 percent. The so-called "sterile" infant formula products are almost always potentially dangerous to the health of millions of children around the globe.

The government should have long ago quickly and decisively put a stop to the milk companies' disgusting advertisements and marketing strategies that promote infant formulas and breast milk substitutes. The wrong information being peddled has led to thousands of malnutrition cases and to an alarming number of infant and child deaths.

It is in this light that the Supreme Court decision voiding part of the Milk Code came as a big disappointment to breast-feeding advocates and millions of mothers throughout the country. But the decision will not weaken the people's and the health sector's resolve to educate mothers on what is best for their babies.

We, at the Council for Health and Development (CHD), strongly believe that the health and welfare of Filipino children should be a paramount concern of government and the private sector alike.

We therefore strongly condemn the transnational milk companies' continuous effort to misinform the public about the "benefits" of infant formulas, through commercials and aggressive marketing strategies. They claim that they too believe breast milk is the "gold standard" when it comes to infant nutrition. The truth is, they are so hell-bent on preventing the implementation of the Milk Code's RIRR because, for them, it would lead to losses of about P10 billion.

We are one with the nation in condemning the transnational milk companies' inhumane pursuit of their self-gratifying interests and the government's lack of political will to stand by its people's interest and welfare.

—ELEANOR A. JARA, M.D.,
executive director,
Council for Health and Development,
chdmancom@yahoo.com

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NFA's losses are a necessary 'social cost'

PLEASE ALLOW US TO REACT TO THE COLumn "A new hunger record" (INQUIRER, 10/6/07), in which Mahar Mangahas called for the abolition of the National Food Authority.

The NFA is one of the public entities tasked to implement the government's hunger mitigation program. The expenses under this program are a "social cost" inevitably incurred to make quality rice affordable especially to the poor; however, economists see them as "losses." We firmly believe it is grossly unfair to look at the NFA as among the causes of hunger and its abolition as a solution to this problem.

As early as July 2003, the government had lifted the NFA's monopoly on rice importation. The private sector, including farmers' organizations and cooperatives, were allowed to import rice. Unfortunately, with the increasing cost of rice in the world market, farmers' organizations failed to fully fulfill their import commitment. To make up for the lack, the NFA had to import and buy rice at a higher price.

Rice is a staple commodity for some 50 percent of the world's population. In the international market, only about 4-6 percent of the world's total rice production is traded. Therefore, any sudden surges in demand is expected to cause large increases in prices. While imported rice is cheaper, any self-respecting country like the Philippines should have—and protect—its own sources of supply. If we become too dependent on outside sources, we could end up paying higher prices for rice.

Rice is consumed by 85 percent of Filipinos. The NFA's primary mandate is to ensure the availability and affordability of rice at all times.

Rice trading should not be left at the mercy of economic forces, meaning, government not intervening in the palay and rice market. We still have to see proof that consumers will benefit and farmers will earn better incomes under a purely private business regime. The private sector cannot be expected to go to the remotest barangays just to buy a few sacks of the farmers' palay or sell low-priced rice to consumers. This is specifically what the NFA does—in support of the government's thrust to eliminate hunger. When we strategically positioned our procurement funds and facilities nationwide, the farmers enjoyed better prices.

Still, even if we shall have attained rice sufficiency, the government should never abandon its duty to ensure food security. This basic social duty of government should not be delegated to the private sector whose primary objective is profit.

The NFA is pragmatic enough to acknowledge that trade liberalization and free market are now norms in the world economy. It is now reviewing its role and looking at separating its regulatory and trading functions.

—REX C. ESTOPEREZ,
director, Public Affairs,
National Food Authority, Quezon City

Bribery in SC worse than the NBN scandal

FEW PEOPLE REALIZE THIS, BUT THE ALLEgation of bribery against a Supreme Court justice is more serious than the allegations of bribery in the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

The Supreme Court is the final arbiter of all legal controversies so that it can uphold or reverse any act of Congress or ruling of any court. The characters in the NBN transaction may be pilloried and convicted a hundred times by other fora, but only the Supreme Court can convict them with finality.

It is therefore of paramount importance for the members of the Supreme Court to keep their integrity intact and for them to remain, as Caesar's wife, above suspicion. Therefore, the Supreme Court should thoroughly investigate the allegation of a P10-million bribery against Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, in a manner perceived by the public to be fair and satisfactory.

And it is hoped that Chief Justice Reynato Puno will not fail the public this time as his predecessors did in the recent past.

Chief Justice Puno so far has enjoyed the confidence of the public. It is hoped that he would see to it that a thorough investigation of the controversy surrounding Justice Santiago be conducted. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago seems to have vital information on the case and should be invited to shed light on it. Integrity, not camaraderie, should be the driving force of the Supreme Court.

—EDUARDO YAP CHUA,
eduardoyapchua@yahoo.com

Marin's murder an indictment of mining law

THE PROMOTION OF CHURCH PEOPLE'S REsponse (PCPR) adds its voice in condemning the murder of environmental activist Armin Marin. He was killed while leading a protest rally against nickel mining operations in Sibuyan Island.

The brutal killing of Marin and many others, together with the experiences of mining-affected communities, should remind the Supreme Court justices and all lawmakers that the Mining Act of 1995 is clearly immoral and unconstitutional and that it spells deadly consequences for Filipinos who wish to defend the country's patrimony from all-out plunder and destruction.

We therefore challenge Congress to immediately repeal this legislation which has become the license for mining multinationals to exploit the Philippines' mineral resources at the expense of Filipino lives, livelihood and the environment. We also call on the Supreme Court to declare once more that this mining law is unconstitutional.

With this law—which allows the unhampered exploration and operations of foreign mining firms—the Lafayette and Marcopper mining disasters will not be the last, just as the killing of Marin will not be the last tragedy.

Marin is the latest victim of the brutal suppression of people's resistance against the plunder of our country's resources. Like Noli Capulong, Rev. Edison Lapuz, Pastor Isaias Sta. Rosa, Mateo Morales and other church people who were also known to be anti-mining activists and defenders of the indigenous peoples, peasants and fisherfolk mainly affected by mining operations, Marin was brutally killed by armed agents of a foreign mining firm that has gained unlimited rights to extract mineral resources, courtesy of the Mining Act of 1995.

Repeal the Mining Act of 1995 now!

Justice for Marin and all victims of repression!

Justice for all victims of mining disasters and environmental plunder!

—AMIE DURAL,
secretary general,
Promotion of Church People's Response,
879 Edsa, Quezon City

Frat violence rears its ugly head not just in UP

THE LETTER OF RENE SAGUISAG SEEMS TO lay the whole matter of fraternity deaths and violence at the door of the University of the Philippines and its alumni. (INQUIRER, 10/1/07)

It is gratifying to note however that a well-known UP alumnus, Juan Ponce Enrile, has condemned the violence. So has another, the elder statesman Jovito Salonga, Edgardo Angara, Franklin Drilon, Justice Antonio Carpio, Representatives Art Defensor, Sim Datumanong and Luis Villafuerte need not follow suit.

Violence of the fraternity kind is also prevalent in other universities and so-called institutions of higher learning. The alumni of Saguisag's alma mater have their own black marks and rogues although not of the fraternity kind. The decade of the '60s saw gang-type violence prevalent in exclusive schools like La Salle, Letran and San Beda.

The best-known rogue is a convict from another Diliman-based institution, whose brand of violence has more to do with pillage and plunder, the worst kind of violence because it is violence directed at millions; his unconvicted predecessor was a product of another Diliman school.

Well, of course, UP being what it is, the blame is well accepted. Another UP alumna sits in glory. *Sic transit gloria mundi* (Thus passes the glory of the world)

—FRED VALERO,
frevale003@yahoo.com

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GMA opens P3.6-B dam Neda questioned

By Kit Bagaipo
Inquirer Visayas

SAN MIGUEL, BOHOL—THE P3.6 BILLION IRRIgation project in Bohol, considered the most expensive irrigation facility in the country because of cost overruns reaching 52 percent, was inaugurated yesterday, by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Bayongan Dam project in San Miguel town, which became controversial after then National Economic and Planning Authority (Neda) director general Romulo Neri questioned the billion-peso overrun, completes the Bohol Irrigation Project (BHIP) system that includes another controversial irrigation project, the Malinao Dam in the town of Pilar.

Overprice

Ms Arroyo arrived here by helicopter from Cebu City and landed in a platform near the irrigation project's marker with some 3,000 farmer beneficiaries coming from the towns of Ubay, San Miguel and Trinidad.

In her speech, the President said the project would make Bohol one of the top producers of rice in Central Visayas.

The Bayongan Dam project was questioned in October last year by Neri, who now heads the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), after its final construction cost reached 52 percent more than its original contract price of P2.3 billion.

More concerns about the viability of the project erupted after BHIP project manager Modesto Membreve admitted that the current water level of the dam's reservoir has not yet reached its ideal elevation of 52 meters.

The water elevation at the irrigation project's reservoir is currently only 39 meters, or 13 meters short of the water supply required to irrigate its service area of 5,300 hectares.

Another loan

The Bayongan Dam was funded by a loan obtained by the national government from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) through its Official Development Assistance (ODA) facility.

As a foreign-funded project, it was placed under the supervision of the Neda's Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC).

A project evaluation report in October 2006, by Neda's project monitoring director Roderick Planta, said the ability of Bayongan Dam to supply water to its 3,500 farmer beneficiaries would depend on excess water coming from Malinao Dam.

The same Neda technical evaluation, the content of which was only leaked to reporters here two months ago, also revealed that on the average, Malinao Dam could only irrigate about 65 percent and 53 percent of its 4,900-ha service area during the wet and dry seasons.

Actual capacity

Lomuel Corre, of Barangay Estaca, Pilar and member of the irrigators' association of Malinao Dam, said the current water delivery capacity of Malinao was actually only good for 19 days.

Normally, he said, there should be continuous water supply for 60 days after the planting season has started.

He said about 40 ha to 60 ha of rice lands at the dam's service areas could not be irrigated by the Malinao Dam.

Ira Pamat, a member of the farmers organization "Humabol," also said 1,260 farm owners were supposed to benefit from the Malinao irrigation but never saw water flowing from the dam's canals since it started operating 10 years ago.

Pamat is worried the same fate awaits Bayongan Dam.

Expensive

In its technical evaluation report, Neda said based on the project's revised cost of P3.6-billion and the target of 5,300 ha of areas to be irrigated, the project would require P684,882 to irrigate one hectare of land compared to its original cost of P449,890 per hectare.

"The Bayongan Dam is so far the most expensive irrigation project being implemented by NIA (National Irrigation Administration)," the evaluation report cited.

AIRBUS A380
A380

CLARK'S "most prestigious visitor," the world's largest working aircraft, lands on former US base soil and instantly becomes a sensation.
TONETTE OREJAS

A380 finds 'a lot of room' in Clark

CLARK FREEPORT—"THERE'S a lot of room to land at Clark."

So said Capt. Peter Chandler, pilot of the world's largest commercial passenger plane, after he parked the Airbus A380 at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here at noon on Friday.

Some 2,000 spectators roared and clapped as the white aircraft, numbered MSN009, approached the DMIA main runway, encircled thrice the tower before making a final descent.

Quiet landing

It came quietly from the north, gliding without a noise, contrasting with the blasting sounds of six United States Air Force's F-18 jets that welcomed what so far was DMIA's most prestigious visitor.

The fabled Mt. Arayat towered from the east, dwarfing the giant jet.

"It's a lovely, big airport. There was no problem landing here," Chandler, a pilot of 33 years, told the INQUIRER of this leg of the Asia route proving tour.

This was the first time that the Airbus 380 has been in Clark, the former home base of the United States Air Force's "jungle air force," the 13th Air Force, until 1991.

Taking in the scenery

"It's the first time for me as well," said the 53-year-old British pilot.

Asked why he made three passes before landing, he replied: "We wanted to show the airplane off. It's also our chance to take pictures of sceneries around here."

At the brief program that welcomed him, his co-pilot, Capt. Bernard Lucien, and 41-member crew, Chandler thanked Clark International Airport Corp. officials for the "fantastic welcome."

They were welcomed by Subic-Clark Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan; Relly Fajardo, presidential adviser for Central Luzon; Nestor Mangio, CIAC chair; Victor Jose Luciano, CIAC president; Alex Cauguiran, CIAC executive vice president; Levy Laus, Clark Development Corp. president; Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio and local officials.

Worth proven

"Clark is certainly a suitable airport for A380," Chandler told the local officials. His remarks drew loud applause from the crowd.

Calling the visit "historic," Luciano thanked Airbus for giving the DMIA the "opportunity to prove its worth to service wide-bodied aircraft."

The DMIA, all of 2,500 hectares and fitted with two 3.2-kilometer runways, used to be one of the largest US military airports.

The government converted this for commercial use after the Senate ordered the closure of US bases in the country in 1991.

Government has primed it to become the country's next premier international gateway.

Home now to at least six airlines offering low-flights to key cities in Southeast Asia, the DMIA had served one million passengers as of August. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Gonzales says NPA rebs play key role in polls

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—NATIONAL SEcurity Adviser Norberto Gonzales on Thursday warned that the government would take action against candidates in the barangay elections that are backed by communist rebels.

Gonzales said they expected the New Peoples' Army (NPA) and its political wing, National Democratic Front (NDF), to support candidates running for barangay captain and councilors who are members of rebel organizations or supportive of their cause.

"I will be surprised if they don't do that," Gonzales, who opposes the use of arms in a socialist rebellion, said in a press conference after he spoke in a forum of government employees here.

He said from 4-5 percent of the country's 42,000 barangays were influenced by rebels and he expected them to maximize the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections to have their supporters and sympathizers elected.

"We know the barangays that they influence and those that they plan to infiltrate," said Gonzales, whose ideology clashes with mainstream communist leaders.

He said the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other government agencies have a plan to prevent the execution of the alleged plan of the rebels but he declined to give details, saying this could preempt their efforts.

But he said it would not be difficult. "In a barangay, the people would know who are sympathetic to the rebels."

Gonzales said the communist insurgency is the biggest peace and order threat to the coming elections.

But the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said the AFP is "the biggest threat to the free and peaceful conduct of the Barangay Council and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections."

In a statement posted at the CPP website (www.philippinerevolution.net), CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal accused the AFP of seeking to control the barangay elections by "actively working to put into office candidates who will serve as their stooges."

"Democracy is completely lost in barangay and youth council elections under the present rotten, reactionary system as these are being used by the AFP and the big reactionary political warlords for their reactionary, anti-democratic and anti-people agenda," said Rosal.

He said the AFP "desperately wants to use the local barangay and youth leaders as adjuncts in its stepped-up campaign of suppression and its drive to recruit more members for its paramilitary forces and barangay intelligence networks."

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106 years of fervor, and still burning

By Vicente S. Labro
Balangiga, Eastern Samar

WITH FERVOR AND PRIDE, THEY again paid tribute to their forebears who left behind a legacy of love for freedom.

People of the century-old coastal town of Balangiga in Eastern Samar commemorated the 106th anniversary of the victory of their forefathers against American invaders on Sept. 28, hoping anew that the historic Balangiga Bells taken as war booty by US soldiers will eventually be returned.

A festive mood pervaded the town as the historic event was marked, albeit with less pomp as before.

The reenactment of the 1901 Balangiga Encounter participated by hundreds of residents-cum-actors—the crowd drawer for several years—was "temporarily cancelled" for lack of funds, Mayor Viscuso de Lira said.

It was replaced by a dance drama of high school students.

Despite the scaled-down festivity, De Lira said the occasion was still meant "to pay tribute to our great men and women who fought and died in asserting their priceless freedom from foreign domination."

The Balangiga Encounter Day kept other activities of previous celebrations—the civic-military parade, thanksgiving Mass, wreath-laying ceremony and commemorative program. It remains a holiday in the province.

A DANCE drama depicting American soldiers taking away the church bells of Balangiga is presented during the 106th Balangiga Encounter Day commemoration program.
PHOTOS BY VICENTE S. LABRO

The attack

The dance drama showed what happened during those fateful days in Balangiga. It peaked with the depiction of the successful attack staged by bolo-wielding Samareños on the US garrison and capped by American soldiers taking away the church bells.

Historians recount that a church bell was rang early morning of Sept. 28, 1901, to signal the attack on the garrison of the US Army's Company C near the church and municipal hall.

Relations between the natives and the Americans had soured because of alleged abuses, including the molestation of several women and forced labor.

A few days before the attack, Maj. Eugenio Daza, district leader of the Philippine Revolutionary Movement in Samar, secretly met with Capt. Valeriano Abanador, Balangiga police chief, and other revolutionary leaders in Sitio Amanlara to finalize their plan.

The revolutionaries were from Balangiga and nearby Lawaan, Giporlos and Quinapondan towns, which were then barrios of Balangiga.

On the eve of the attack, some guerrillas entered the church dressed as women, while others carried a coffin purportedly containing the remains of a cholera victim but actually concealed *sundang* (long bladed weapons).

When Abanador raised his cane to signal the raid, the bells started ringing. Some 500 natives with *sundang* and spears attacked the American soldiers, most of them having breakfast. Fifty of the 74 soldiers were killed while 22 were reported wounded. Others escaped by boat to nearby Basey town where another US detachment was located.

A handful of soldiers were able to get hold of their Krags and shoot dead some of the natives.

Howling wilderness

Some historians considered the event the "worst single defeat" of the US Army during the Philippine-American War.

In retaliation, the US Army sent Gen. Jake Smith to Samar. According to some accounts, he ordered his men to kill all Samareños aged 10 years old and above, burn houses, shoot working animals and seize crops, making Samar a "howling wilderness."

When the soldiers left, they took away, among others, the church bells as war trophies. Two of the bells are still mounted at the Fort Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, while another is kept by the US Army in a warehouse in South Korea.

Many efforts have been made by local and national leaders for the return of the "Bells of Freedom" but to no avail.

The former bishop of the Diocese of Borongan, Leonardo Medroso, went to the United States a few years ago to seek the return of the bells, but veterans' groups in Wyoming were adamant in their decision not to send them back.

Medroso had even cited an order issued by Abraham Lincoln in 1864 that defined specific articles that should be respected and not taken as trophies of war, and these included church property.

"*Nagpapabilin it aton hingyap, it aton mga inop nga hibalik ine nga aton* Balangiga Bells (Our hope, our dream that the Balangiga Bells will be returned still remains)," Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone said in a message during the commemorative program on Sept. 28.

"We don't know when these will be returned. Many have already worked together for the bells' return because these are symbolic to us but up to now these were not returned. If these are not returned yet, let us just not forget the reason why the event took place," Evardone said in Waray.

"The reason? It's simple—a struggle for our rights that was trampled upon during that time," he added.

Sen. Loren Legarda, the guest speaker, vowed to continue working for the return of the bells, citing Senate Resolution No. 155, which she recently filed, that urged the Philippine government "to exhaust all efforts to persuade the government of the United States to, as an act of goodwill and solidarity between these two nations, immediately return" the bells to Eastern Samar.

"While the church bells were taken in an atmosphere of divisiveness, perhaps hatred and revenge, what is essential is that we, the Filipino people, now strive for peace and reconciliation," she said.

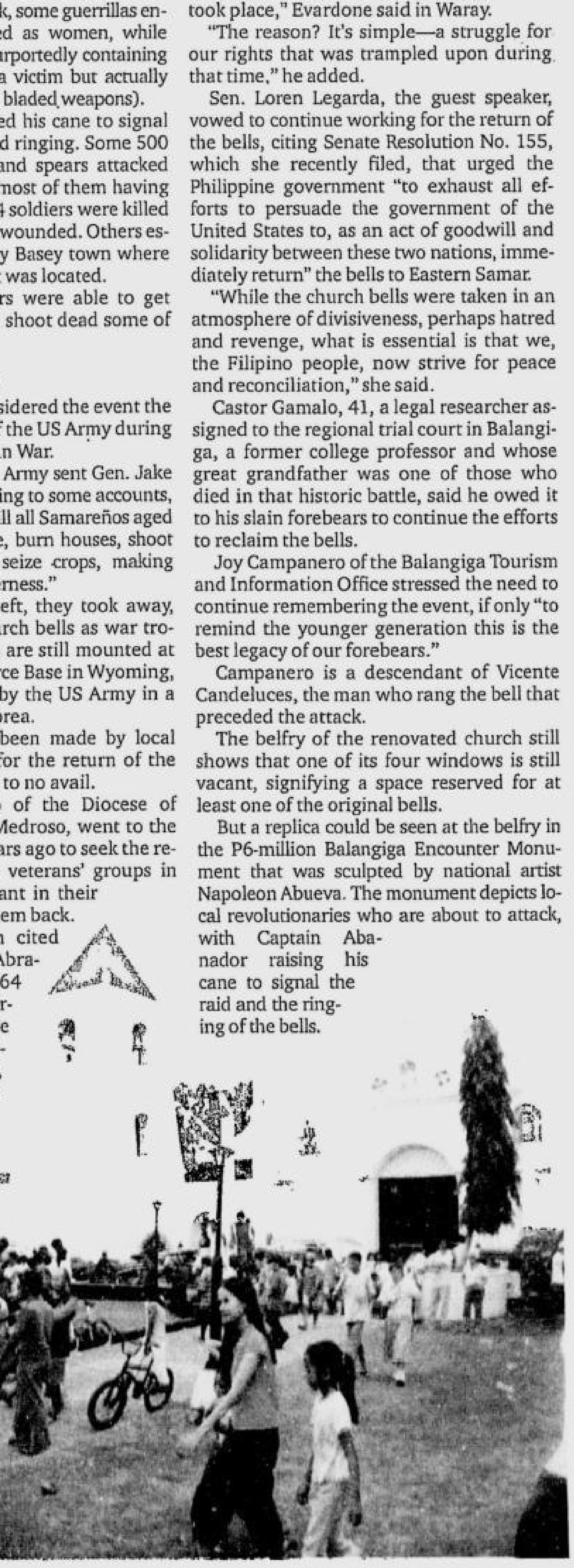
Castor Gamalo, 41, a legal researcher assigned to the regional trial court in Balangiga, a former college professor and whose great grandfather was one of those who died in that historic battle, said he owed it to his slain forebears to continue the efforts to reclaim the bells.

Joy Campanero of the Balangiga Tourism and Information Office stressed the need to continue remembering the event, if only "to remind the younger generation this is the best legacy of our forebears."

Campanero is a descendant of Vicente Candeluces, the man who rang the bell that preceded the attack.

The belfry of the renovated church still shows that one of its four windows is still vacant, signifying a space reserved for at least one of the original bells.

But a replica could be seen at the belfry in the P6-million Balangiga Encounter Monument that was sculpted by national artist Napoleon Abueva. The monument depicts local revolutionaries who are about to attack, with Captain Abanador raising his cane to signal the raid and the ringing of the bells.


THE RENOVATED Balangiga Church and its belfry, which has one window vacant apparently to give space to any of the lost historic bells.

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Why, who is going after the Inquirer?

From page A1

That was consistent with the Senate Rules on Executive Session, Rule XLVII, Sec. 127, which provides that it "shall be held whenever a Senator so requests it and his petition has been duly seconded."

The presence of DBM Secretary Andaya, as attested by the Blue Ribbon Transcript, was authorized by the lead Chair, Senator Cayetano in accordance with Sec. 126, that "such other persons as may be authorized by the Senate may be admitted to the (executive session)."

At the start of the closed-door session, Senate President Villar invoked Section 128, that everyone "shall absolutely refrain from divulging any of the confidential matters taken up by the Senate, and all proceedings which might have taken place in the Senate in connection with said matters shall likewise be considered as strictly confidential xxx."

So sacrosanct is the executive session that Sec. 129 proscribes that "any Senator who violates the [confidentiality injunction' may, by a two-thirds (2/3) votes of all the Senators, be expelled from the Senate xxx."

Three days later, on September 29, 2007, Inquirer's Malacañang reporter, Juliet Labog-Javellana, quoting four unnamed sources, filed a detailed account of what supposedly happened in the closed-door meeting which was banner headlined in the Inquirer issue of Sept. 30th.

It was a double-whammy, First, against the Inquirer for a patently baseless report that everyone privy to that meeting has stoutly denied. Second, against the Senate for the possible sources could only be the senators present who faced the prospect of the ultimate sanction under the Senate rules: expulsion.

Considering the serious breach of Senate rules, P.S. Resolution No. 165 was passed without any objection by the Senate.

The resolutory portion is simple and forthright. It reads:

"Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Committee to conduct an inquiry into violation of Rule XLVII and/or other rules of the Senate as a consequence of the aforesaid [Inquirer] news account and to investigate any/or all Senators and non-Senators who were present during the said Executive Session and to impose sanctions as may be warranted under the Rules."

The Senate would go to great lengths to conduct a formal investigation of the erring senators, if any; for breach of its Rules, if there was; and to impose penalties, if warranted. The Senate cannot have four members who cannot work within its Rules. What was the response of the Inquirer?

Within hours after the Senate adopted the investigative resolution and as the Inquirer was going to press, its editors suddenly declared that it stood by the Javellana story wholesale. That is, without conducting any investigation—in sharp contrast to the Senate's careful and calibrated response.

Inquirer thought it had played a neat shell game. By absolving Ms Javellana with self-serving and indecent haste, Inquirer sought to absolve itself. Did it? Only if the accused is to be the judge of her own guilt.

But no one was accusing the Inquirer. Not yet anyway. The Senate has in fact provisionally taken Ms Javellana's claim of real sources at her word, and was conducting an investigation to uncover these sources and then check with them the veracity of the account they allegedly gave her.

Why should that so disturb the Inquirer like an inveterate card-sharp who may actually have been playing an honest game?

At no point will the Inquirer itself be investigated, only the senators and the others who were present at the executive session. Ms Javellana may invoke the confidentiality of her sources to stop herself from revealing their identities but not to stop the Senate from finding out for itself. Unless a newspaper is of the view that it has, in some regard, the last word on what a Senate may or may not do. We do not think so.

And now the Inquirer has hunkered down for a siege that no one intends to lay it, devoting four kilometric but distorted accounts of the issue on its front page, plus two editorials and numerous columns. Everyone at the Inquirer is at the ramparts scanning the horizon for enemies that are not there; for the inquiry will be of the Senate by the Senate without any regard to Inquirer. Unless the Inquirer is of the view that anything it may concern itself with is its sole prerogative to dispose of and no one else. What an odd self-important notion.

With characteristic imbalance, the Inquirer extended to me a single slanted headline coupled with a predictably editorialized news account of Senate Resolution No. 165.

It grasped at the off-tangent straw thrown in its direction by a lawyer with an axe to grind against the Senate because he was barred from attending any Senate committee hearings for unruly behavior and improper knowledge.

Amado Doronila, Inquirer's career obscurantist, joined the pride and writes about a freedom whose loss he was not around to experience.

Doronila labors mightily to transform the Senate Resolution into a battle for the liberty of the press. But the Senate has no fight with the press. Neither has the Senate a fight with the Inquirer. All the Senate seeks is the truth about the sourcing of Ms Javellana's thus far universally denied story so that it can deal with the offending senators and not with a newspaper whose feeble grasp of facts has lost it a lot of credibility though not, to be sure, any of its entertainment value.

Nor is the Senate interested in denying Ms Javellana the confidentiality of her sources, thereby hobbling the journalistic right to search for the truth. Far from it, the Senate seeks only to protect the confidentiality of executive sessions without which its effectiveness in searching for the truth will likewise be hampered.

What surprises us all is not that Ms Javellana made a claim of sources that has been roundly denied by everyone concerned but that her editors nonetheless published a story in the teeth of the declared confidentiality of the Senate proceedings, thereby damaging perhaps irreparably one of the legislature's most effective devices for getting at the truth. The fault was not so much Ms Javellana's for claiming sources that may not exist as her editors for going ahead with a story regardless of the consequences to the Senate and the larger public interest in arriving at the truth about the ZTE affair.

As the Senate grills all the senators who were present at the session, it may well be that some or just one of them may ask that Ms Javellana be invited to shed some light on the matter, perhaps also in executive session so that no one else may know what or whether she spoke. After all, as the writer of the offending article, no one is in a better position to help the Senate resolve the issue. This time we trust that the strictest confidence will be maintained by all concerned.

The Inquirer of course may refuse to allow Ms Javellana to attend or may threaten her continued employment if she does; that is its prerogative or rather that of the editors. But it cannot, in all decency, criticize the Senate for doing its duty in this matter. I hope the Inquirer publishes this statement. It would only be fair and a profound surprise.

Editors' notes

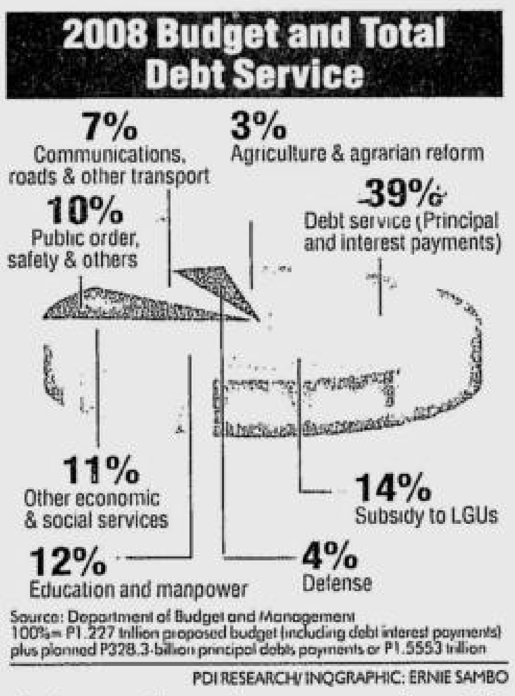
IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRness, the editors take exception to the author saying two less than factual items: First, that the Sept. 30 banner story about the leak of what happened to Neri at the Senate executive session of Sept. 27 had been "universally denied."

Except for Senator Arroyo himself, not one of PDI's four news sources for the Sept. 30 news story had come forward to deny it.

Second, that the editors stood by the story bylined by Juliet Javellana without investigating first. There was no need. Juliet was assigned to check out a tip the editors got about what happened behind closed doors at the Senate executive session. Certain other editors were in on the whole process of Juliet's news gathering for and verifying and cross-checking the story. From the start, Juliet was not acting in a vacuum. Though she alone wrote the story, the editors were there all the way. There was nothing to investigate. All this time, the editors were on top of the story.

Debt service cut in P1.23-T ...

From page A1



Source: Department of Budget and Management
100%= P1.227 trillion proposed budget (including debt interest payments) plus planned P328.3-billion principal debts payments or P1.5553 trillion

PDI RESEARCH/ INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

month of deliberations and less than two weeks of plenary scrutiny.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, the subject of persistent ouster rumors, said it was the first time that the post-Marcos Congress passed the general appropriations bill in the second week of October "instead of in November or in December."

"We will not have a reenacted budget. We kept our commitment to our people," said De Venecia to applause from majority and minority members, and even from those in the majority coalition said to be plotting his ouster.

The 2008 budget is to all intents and purposes already passed as a third and final reading, which the House will undertake in early November after members return from a three-week recess, is considered purely ministerial.

The budget measure then goes to the Senate which Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, chair of the Senate finance committee, said would pass the bill by December. The Senate went on recess last week ahead of the House.

Education and public works received the biggest allocation in the general appropriations bill that the House leadership said aims to achieve a balanced budget two years ahead of projections in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

Aside from the slash in debt payments, the House also realigned P30.1 billion worth of key appropriations that Malacañang made in the original budget proposal, redirecting the amount to basic services like education, health, agriculture, public safety and the environment.

The allocation for health services included an increase in the family planning budget from P180 million to at least P1 billion.

"I have two major advocacies when it comes to the national budget—reduction of debt service payments and population," said Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the committee on appropriations.

Part of the slashed amounts will go to prisoners' meal allowances, the purchase of guns, ammunition, patrol cars and fire trucks, and assistance programs for overseas Filipino workers.

The redirected P30.1 billion of appropriations included P5 billion worth of "slow-moving projects in the Department of Public Works and Highways"; P2.2-billion for the Light Rail Transit 1, South Extension Project; P2.7-billion cut from the P43.7-billion Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund; and P2.1-billion budgetary support for government corporations.

Lagman said the congressmen were careful to make the cuts from within the expenditure level proposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In his sponsorship speech on the appropriations bill last week, Lagman said lawmakers had discretion over only P286 million—or 23 percent—of the trillion-peso budget.

Lagman said the committee found "elbow room" to make the cuts in debt payments because of the stability of the peso whose appreciation or depreciation directly impact the amount allocated for foreign debt servicing.

Of the P17.8 billion slashed from the allocation for foreign debt, P6.8 billion constituted savings because of the continuing appreciation of the peso, Lagman said.

Lagman said that for every peso of appreciation—or if, say, the peso moves from P45 to P44 against the United States dollar—debt service payments would automatically be reduced by P2.272 billion.

He said the lower house pegged the savings at a minimum of P6 billion with an appreciation of P3. The assumption is that the peso would remain in the P46 to P48 range against the dollar till next year.

The rest of the P17.8-billion cut in debt payments, or P11 billion, will come from the "proposed suspension of interest payments for loans initially identified and challenged to be tainted or wasteful pending their renegotiation and/or condonation," according to Lagman.

This included the loan for the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, and the Bank Austria loan worth P503.6 million for the purchase of "substandard" medical waste incinerators for 26 government hospitals.

Lagman said the budget act would also include a proposed measure to repeal the automatic appropriations statute that automatically allocates a huge portion of the budget to debt servicing and to create a debt audit commission.

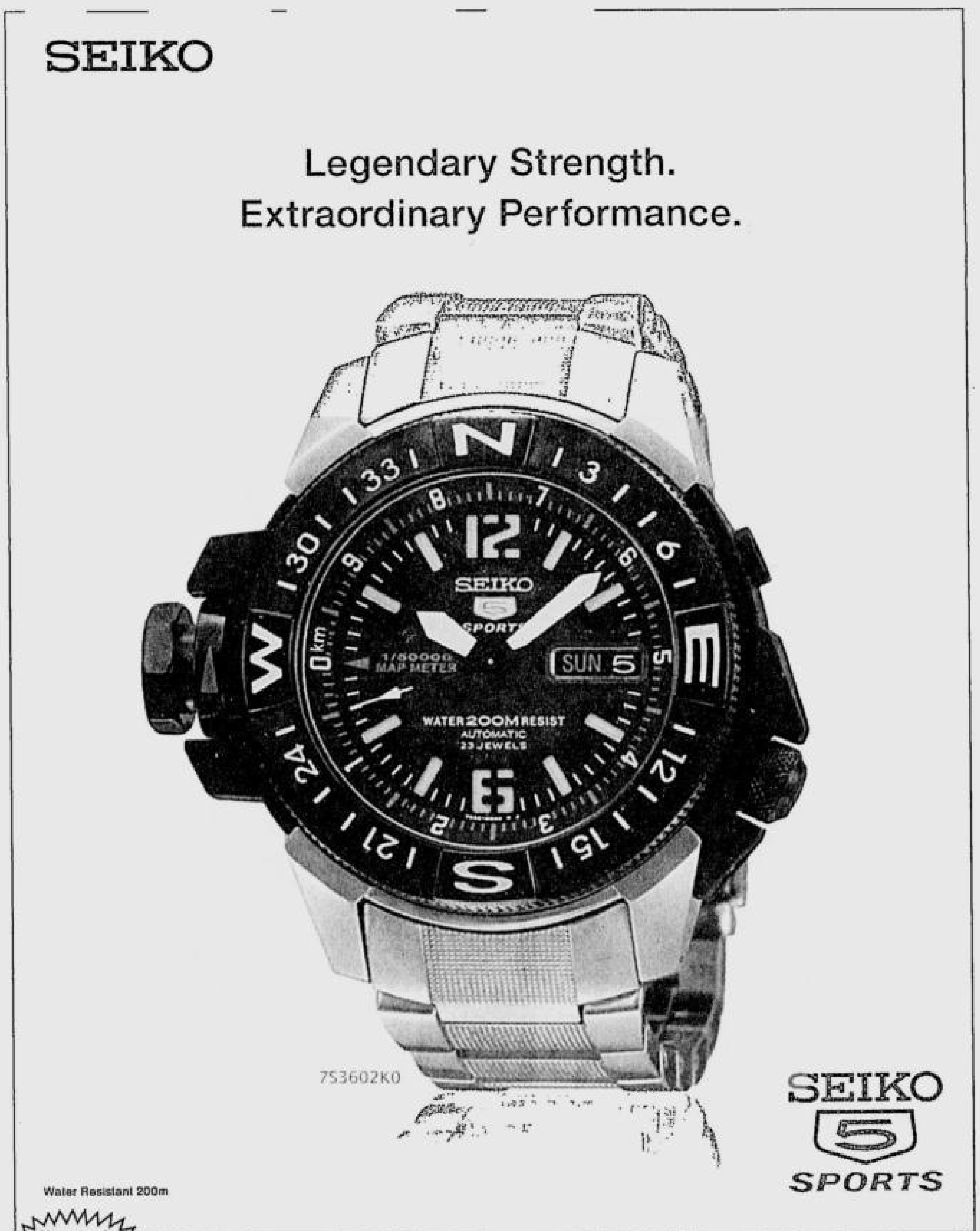
The proposed debt audit commission will pinpoint onerous loans that the country may negotiate to stop paying.

Lagman said the House expects the state revenue agencies to raise the amount needed to have a balanced budget next year.

"We are banking on the Bureau of Internal Revenue to raise P845 billion and the Bureau of Customs to collect P245 billion," he said.

The top 10 departments with the highest budgetary allocations were education, including the school-building program, with P145.975 billion; public works and highways, P94.461 billion; national defense, including the Armed Forces modernization program, P56.609 billion; local government, P52.609 billion; agriculture, P23.756 billion; transportation and communications, P22.339 billion; health, P16.259 billion; agrarian reform, P13.006 billion; judiciary, P10.184 billion; and the foreign affairs, P10.053 billion.

The scene showing House members almost unanimously applauding and cheering De Venecia as he spoke on passage of the budget "in record time" seemed to belie the tension in the House caused by the filing of an impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.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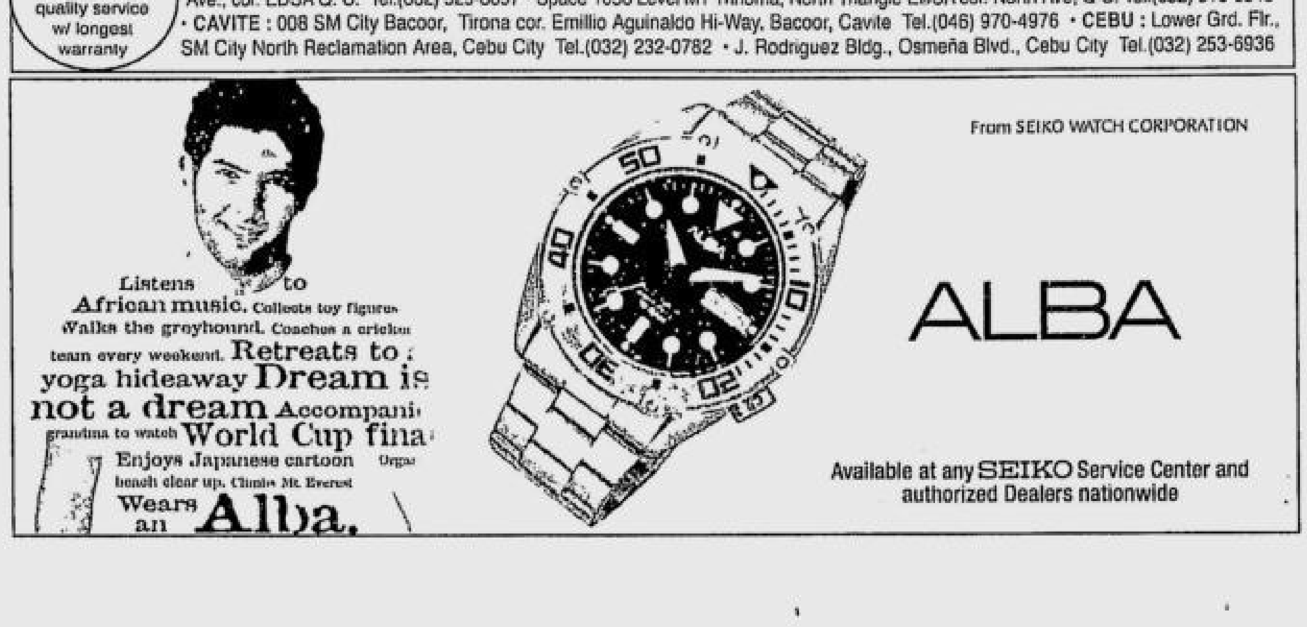

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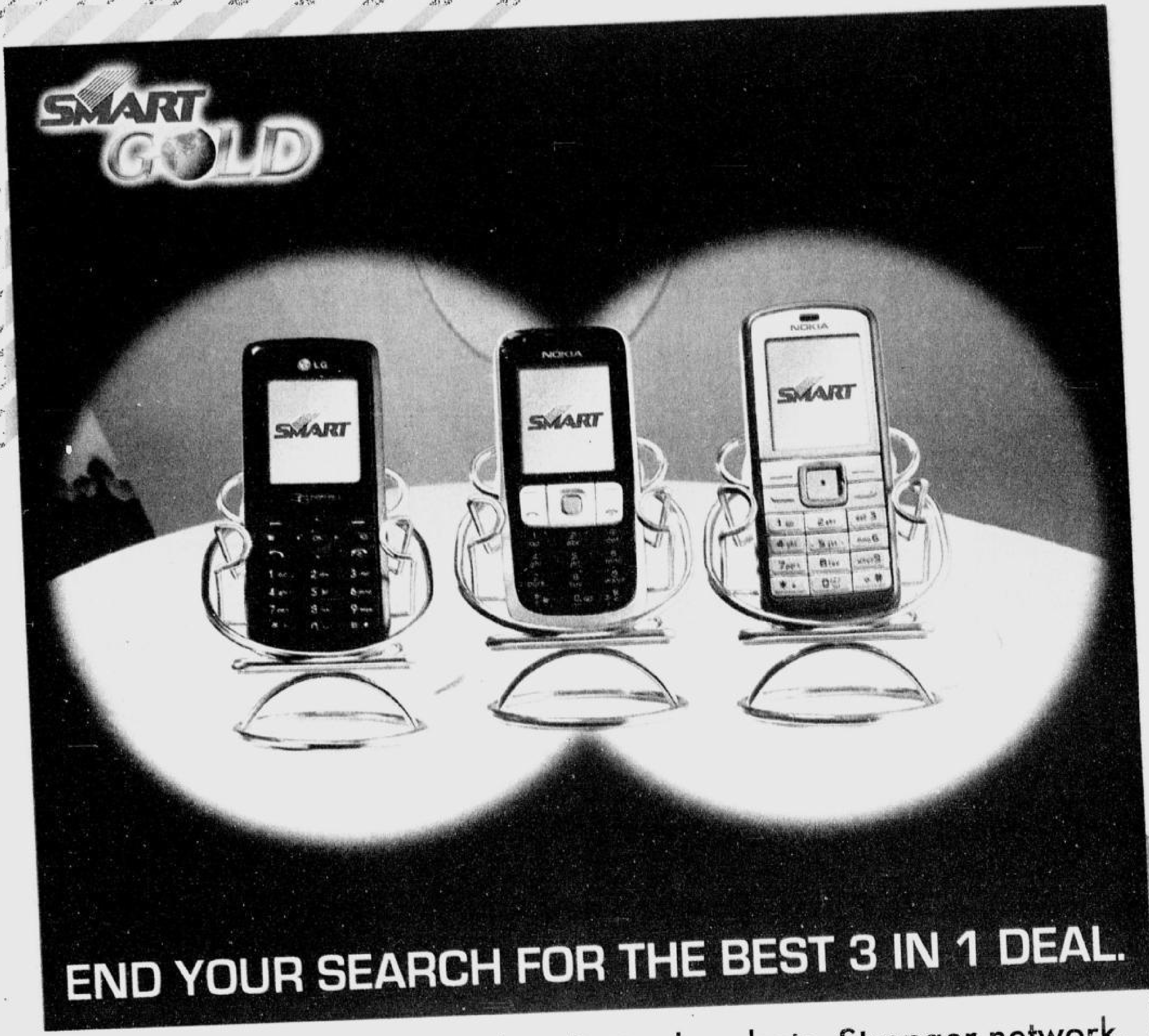

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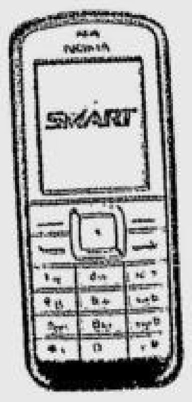

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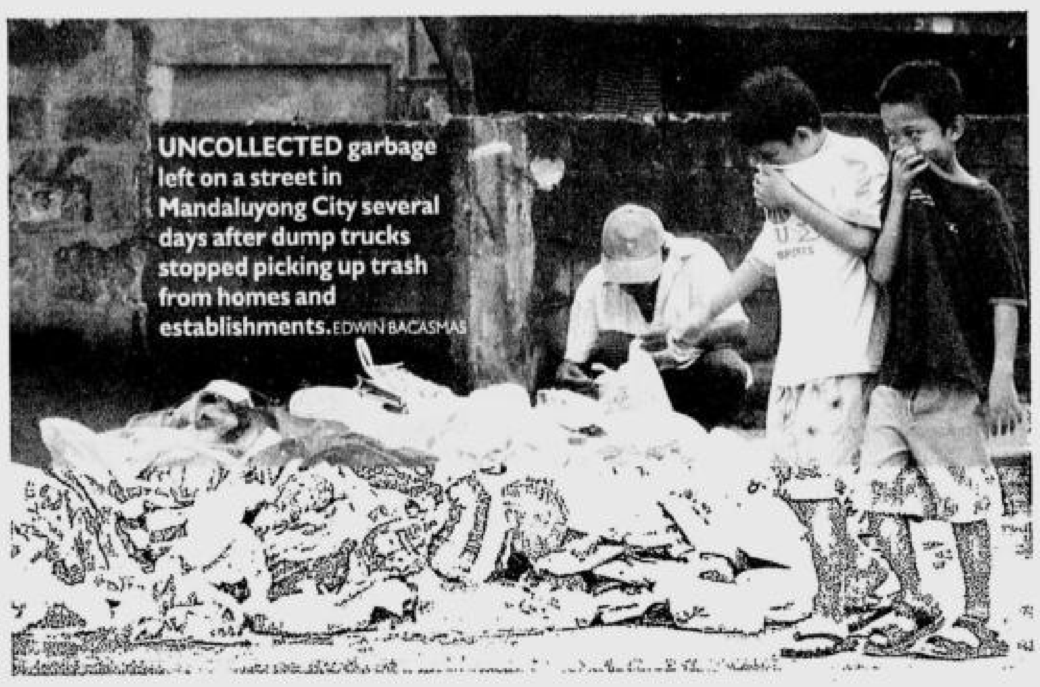


UNCOLLECTED garbage left on a street in Mandaluyong City several days after dump trucks stopped picking up trash from homes and establishments. EDWIN BACASMAS

New Rodriguez landfill opens

Mayors fear relief temporary

By DJ Yap, Kristine L. Alave, Julie M. Aurelio and Nancy C. Carvajal

A GARBAGE CRISIS IN METRO Manila has been averted.

Riza Gov. Casimiro Ynares III and Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo have settled their differences and allowed the opening of the town's sanitary landfill to Metro Manila, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday.

The two apparently reached an agreement during a meeting with Fernando Thursday evening, but the MMDA chair did not disclose the terms or conditions of the verbal agreement.

Despite the truce between Ynares and Cuerpo, some Metro Manila mayors said it did not allay their fears of a garbage crisis.

Fernando said it would be up to the local government to decide what dump to use: the 14-hectare landfill that Ynares said was already full, or the adjacent 19-hectare. facility that had yet to get proper permits.

Responding to criticism that the MMDA could not provide a permanent solution to Metro Manila's garbage woes, Fernando said such problems were only natural.

"There can be no permanent solution to the garbage problem because landfills also have periods of life and death," he said.

The important thing, he said, was to ensure that alternative sites were available every time a landfill shut down.

As this developed, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said he would allow garbage from Makati and San Juan to be dumped in the city's landfill but under certain conditions.

Fernando downplayed the impact of the standoff between Cuerpo and Ynares that led to the garbage pileup in some cities like Makati, Caloocan and Mandaluyong.

He said only Makati had difficulty finding a landfill for its garbage.

Earlier this week, Ynares closed down the 14-ha landfill in Rodriguez, saying it was already full and directed that garbage be brought to the adjacent site.

Cuerpo complied with Ynares' order to close the smaller landfill but said he would not allow dump trucks into the new site because it lacked the necessary permits from his office.

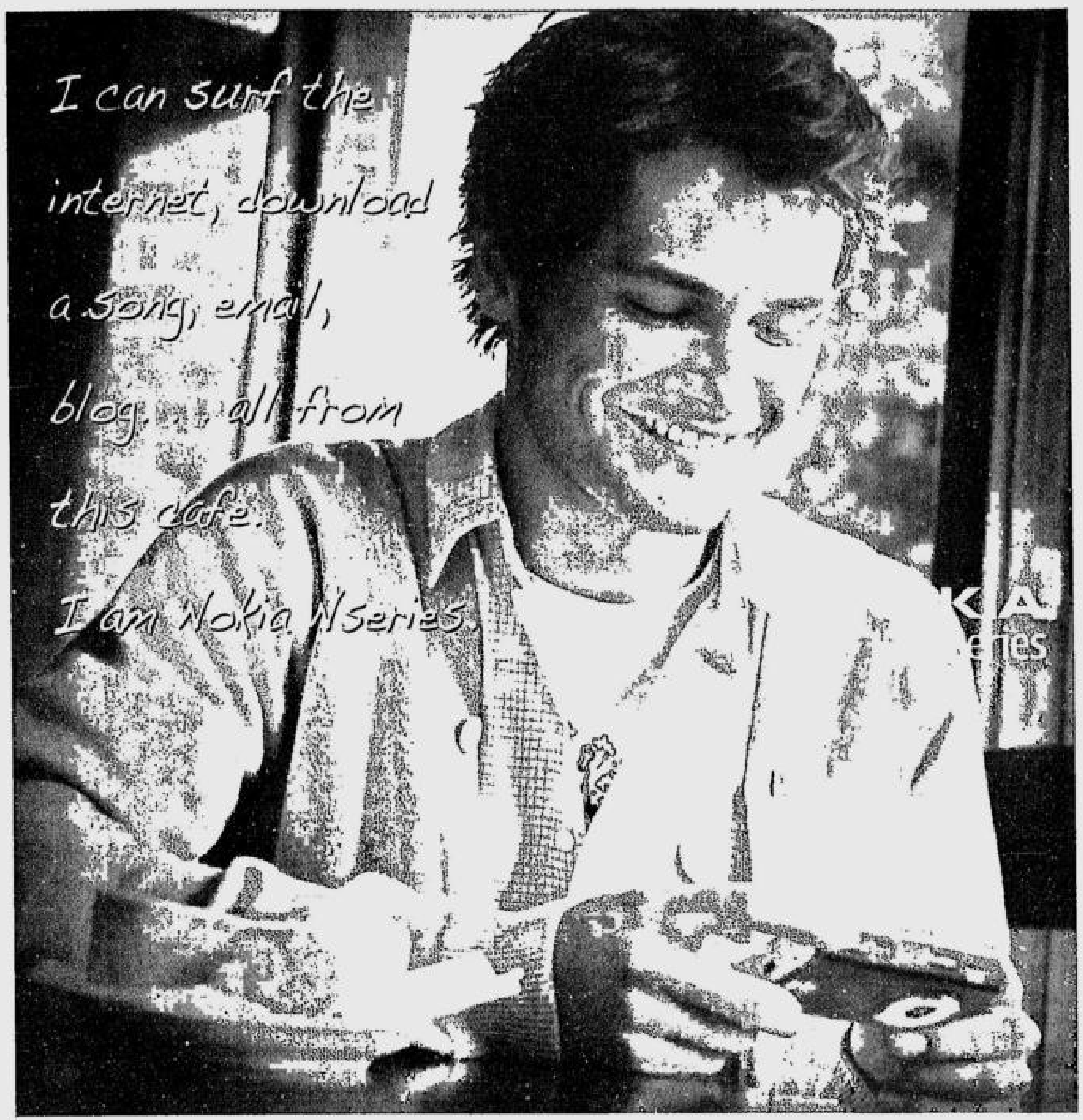
The old landfill was used by Metro Manila's 16 cities and one municipality. With its closure Ynares said the new landfill was exclusively for Rizal's use.

While the Rizal local officials were feuding, Metro Manila local governments, except for Quezon City that operates the Payatas dump, had to make separate arrangements with landfill operators.

Metro Manila mayors appealed to Ynares and Cuerpo to solve the dispute permanently and swiftly.

"It's not yet over," Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos said in a phone interview. Some technicalities needed to be threshed

NEW/ A20



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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4194 Series of 2007

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'Bribe' story nothing new

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE BANNER HEADLINE STORY in the INQUIRER yesterday that 190 congressmen were each handed envelopes amounting to between P200,000 and P500,000 in Malacañang after a breakfast meeting with President Gloria is not earthshaking.

She has been "bribing" congressmen through the easy release of their pork barrel, and the generals through her intelligence fund, according to my little birdie in the Palace.

But she allegedly pampers her generals more than the bootlicking legislators by showering them regularly with fat envelopes from her presidential intelligence fund.

All intelligence funds in government agencies are not subject to audit. The holder of the fund may do as he or she pleases with it.

Why does she give away money to generals from her intelligence fund, I asked the Palace source.

He looked at me like I was stupid, and said: "Mon, the generals keep her in power."

Satiated with perks and privileges, the generals won't think of abandoning her in case of another people power uprising, he said.

***

But why did the generals turn against President Erap even if he, too, was overly generous to them, I asked.

Erap was grossly incompetent and corrupt, my source said, while GMA projects an image of knowing her job and that of being clean and honest even if her relatives supposedly are not.

I was told by another source that from Day One, there already was a plot to unseat Erap because he was considered an uneducated boor.

***

Why does the Supreme Court allow Caloocan City Regional Trial Court Judge Adoracion G. Angeles to continue holding office even after she has been convicted of violating the Anti-Child Abuse Law?

Another Caloocan City RTC judge, Florentino Floro, was kicked out by the high court for publicly admitting he consulted with elves (*dwende*) in rendering decisions.

Floro never violated any law. His only fault was believing in the supernatural, while Angeles was convicted of a crime.

If that's not favoritism, I don't know what is.

***

The Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) says a company called Spyca is allegedly involved in smuggling through its customs bonded warehouse.

Imported goods are supposedly taken out of the warehouse without paying taxes and duties while customs guards look the other way.

If true, why does Spyca get away with smuggling?

It allegedly enjoys protection from a Cabinet member, according to my sources at the Bureau of Customs.

The Cabinet official allegedly wanted to get the PASG job in a concurrent capacity, but the post was given instead to Antonio Villar, a close ally of the President.

Even after being rebuffed, the Cabinet official still reportedly throws his weight around at the piers through his trusted men.

***

Scores of Marines have applied for retirement because of demoralization in the Marine Corps, according to one of the applicants.

Those wanting to retire have been in the service for 20 years which makes them eligible.

Before, Marines seldom retired before they reached the compulsory retirement age of 56.

Malacañang official accused of attempted homicide

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A COMPLAINT FOR ATTEMPTed homicide was filed yesterday against an undersecretary of the office of the presidential chief of staff.

Warrick Evidente of Barangay Mariana, New Manila, Quezon City filed the complaint with the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Cubao police station 7 after Renato Ebarle allegedly tried to run him over with his sports utility vehicle. Evidente, a 40-year-old sales executive, said the incident stemmed from a traffic problem.

The Greenhills, San Juan police detachment reported that the incident started at around 9:35 a.m. along 1st Street in Barangay Mariana.

Evidente and his 5-year-old son were about to leave their townhouse aboard a maroon Toyota Corolla (WCU-158) to buy bread when Ebarle's charcoal gray Toyota Land Cruiser with a 12* license plate in front and RET-565 in the back, suddenly appeared, the report said. Ebarle stepped on the brakes to prevent a collision.

Evidente told the INQUIRER that Ebarle started hurling invectives at him and threatened to kill him, adding that he worked in Malacañang.

Evidente said he got his son out of the car and asked a security guard to take him home. As he was about to board his car again, Ebarle stepped on the accelerator, sideswiping his left leg, he said.

Despite an injured leg, Evidente chased Ebarle until they reached the corner of Santolan Road and Ortigas Avenue in San Juan. During the chase, the Land Cruiser allegedly tried to get Evident's car off the road.

SPO1 Gerardo Matias, who was aboard San Juan mobile unit 431, noticed the incident and told them to stop. Evidente told him his version of the story. When Matias asked Ebarle to get off his vehicle, the latter reportedly introduced himself as a Malacañang official and said he wanted the case to be brought to PNP chief Director General Avelino Razon in Camp Crame. He handed Matias a business card.

When Matias threatened to charge him with willful disobedience of a person in authority, Ebarle agreed to go to the San Juan Police detachment in Greenhills. Once there, Ebarle reportedly excused himself when his lawyer Ben Dangaso arrived, allegedly promising that the latter would take care of the matter since he had to go to Malacañang.

Matias told the INQUIRER he asked the lawyer to wait while he brought the victim to the San Juan Medical Center for examination. When they returned, Dangaso was also gone.

In a telephone interview, Dangaso told the INQUIRER he left the station because he knew the incident was outside the jurisdiction of San Juan authorities.

He said his client would file counter-charges against Evidente and the San Juan police for allegedly filing a false report.

RAFFY LERMA

THE CONTROVERSIAL Rodriguez landfill in Rizal that was earlier closed by Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III.

New Rodriguez landfill . . .

From page A19

out, he added.

San Juan City Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito said their trash collection was irregular as a result of the conflict. He joined Abalos in asking the Rizal officials to resolve their differences.

Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad criticized the MMDA for not preparing for the closure of the Rodriguez landfill and for passing the buck to local governments.

"The city government is only tasked with collecting garbage from the residents and establishments. It is the MMDA's job to look for a landfill or dump, and of disposing the trash," Trinidad said.

Nelson Lacambra said that while Parañaque was not directly affected by the closure of the Rodriguez landfill, the city might have a problem later if other cities began using the San Pedro, Laguna landfill.

The spokesperson of Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. said garbage collection was done twice a week in the city.

In offering the use of the Navotas landfill, Tiangco told the INQUIRER, "In principle I agree that our dump be used as an alternative site for the garbage of Makati and San Juan, but they should also ask the permission of the local government of Manila."

He said Binay and Ejercito asked last week to be allowed to dump garbage in the Tanza dump on a temporary basis.

The mayor said while the landfill could accommodate waste from the two cities, it would take time to find barges that would bring trash from Pier 18 at the North Harbor.

At present he said, waste from Manila and Malabon City were also brought to the dump managed by Philippine Ecology Systems Corp. or Phileco.

He said barges carrying trash docked in Manila and needed the approval of Mayor Alfredo Lim.

During the standoff, the MMDA asked Metro Manila residents to keep their garbage first as it looked for another landfill that could accommodate over 8,000 cubic meters of trash daily.

Cuerpo said yesterday he ordered the opening of the old landfill that Ynares and the provincial board ordered shut down.

But no dump truck could enter as it was blocked by the new landfill's contractor, he said. Cuerpo insisted the old landfill had not reached its maximum capacity.

He also said Rodriguez should have control over the new landfill, not the provincial government.

Cuerpo said Ynares' decision to open the new site was "illegal."

28 hurt in Coastal Road accident

By Julie M. Aurelio

TWENTY-EIGHT PERSONS were injured when a passenger bus hit six other vehicles along the Coastal Road in Parañaque City early yesterday morning.

The incident is the second traffic incident to occur along the Coastal Road this week.

Authorities have yet to identify the victims who were brought to the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City for treatment.

The staff at the San Juan de Dios Hospital emergency room said most of the victims suffered minor injuries.

PO3 Alipio Dimaano of the traffic bureau said the incident occurred along the northbound lane of Coastal Road, just before the Airport Road in Barangay Tambo.

At 7:10 a.m., bus driver Domingo Payo, of 3 Sisters Liner, lost control of his brakes and smashed into six vehicles stuck in traffic.

The bus had just come from Cavite province and was bound for Manila when the smashup occurred.

Police have not yet identified the vehicles involved—reportedly two jeepneys, two vans and a taxi—in its report yesterday afternoon.

Payo, a resident of Gonzales Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila is now in the custody of the traffic bureau of the Parañaque City police.

Charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple physical injuries and damage to property are being readied against the bus driver.

Home Guaranty Corporation

Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is offering for sale in cash or installment one of its acquired assets particularly described as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	LOCATION	TOTAL AREA	MINIMUM BID PRICE (Php)
Ninety Nine (99) residential lots with individual TCTs	Divine Mercy Village, Brgy. Mationa, Tayabas, Quezon	12,894 sqm	P6,791,300.00

General Guidelines:

1. The sale of the properties shall be on an "AS IS-WHERE IS" basis;
2. All proposals shall be submitted on or before October 30, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.
3. Prospective bidders may offer to buy the property in cash or installment basis. Only cash purchase shall be entitled to discounts.
4. Terms of payment:
   4.1 For CASH SALE, the following discount rates apply:
      - 10%, Spot Cash
      - 6%, if paid within 30 days from signing of sale documents
      - 4%, if paid within 60 days from signing of sale documents
      - 2%, if paid within 90 days from signing of sale documents

   4.2 For INSTALLMENT SALE (discounts are not applicable):
      - 10% minimum downpayment
      - Balance payable in equal monthly installments over a maximum term of five (5) years at twelve (12%) interest per annum.
5. Bidding documents can be secured from the Asset Management and Disposition Group (AMDG) located at the 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City from October 15 to 19, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00).**
6. The sealed bids should be dropped in the designated drop box located at the lobby of the AMDG office on or before October 30, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.
7. Bidders are enjoined to inspect the property before submitting their bids.
8. The award of the sale covering the properties shall be based on the offer determined to be most advantageous to the Corporation.

For inquiries, please call the AMDG at 897-3290 and 895-6250, or you may visit our office at 4/F, Jade Bldg., 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
Vice President
Asset Management and Disposition Group

(PDI–Oct. 13 & 14, 2007)

QC cops link 'asset' to death of police officer

By Jeannette I. Andrade

DEAD MEN DO TELL TALES.

Citing new evidence, investigators of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) declared yesterday the death of Station 8 commander Supt. Jose Garcia a closed case, claiming that an unidentified man found dead before dawn of Wednesday was the same person who killed the police official.

QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit homicide division head Chief Insp. Lino Banaag told the INQUIRER that they came up with the conclusion after several items belonging to Superintendent Garcia were recovered from the slain man.

"Colonel Garcia's name engraved on the folding knife and on the gold-plated pen could hardly be read because the letters were so small. Personnel of the Scene of the Crime Office had to use a magnifying glass to read the engraving," Banaag said, pointing out that the man may have taken the items without knowing that they bore the owner's name.

Although still unidentified, Banaag said the man served as Superintendent Garcia's "asset." He added that it was possible that on Sept. 30, the suspect could have gone to Garcia's house at Nawasa Road corner Military Rd., Veterans Village, Barangay Pasong Tamo in Quezon City to borrow money.

"Garcia could have refused to grant him the loan, which triggered the assault," the homicide division chief said. The QCPD station 8 commander reportedly had his .45 caliber pistol with him when he met the suspect on his yard. "It is possible that they grappled for the possession of the gun which fired and killed Garcia," Banaag stressed.

It was learned that Superintendent Garcia was missing P300,000 in cash, which he got from a a loan obtained from a government financial institution.

Banaag pointed out that the only mystery left for them to solve is the identity of Garcia's alleged killer, who was described to be aged between 25 and 30 years old, 5'3" tall, medium-built, with brown complexion, curly hair, and a picture of a bird in flight tattooed on his right shoulder.

The body had been found between 3:30 a.m. and 4 a.m., Wednesday, outside house number 71 Freedom St., Area 1, Barangay Pasong Tamo, in Pingkian, Quezon City, the victim lying on his belly with .45 caliber pistol bulletwounds in the face and in the chest.

The homicide division chief emphasized that they are eyeing the involvement of a syndicate in the death of the unidentified man..

Soco personnel, led by Senior Insp. Elizalde Odi, recovered two empty .45 caliber pistol shells, a magazine for a .45 caliber pistol with eight live ammunition, a money card, a tampered Philippine National Police badge, a Bank of the Philippine Islands checkbook with a gold-plated pen bearing the words "P/Supt. Jose Garcia, Station Commander PS8" as well as an 8-inch folding knife similarly engraved.

METROBRIEFS

Fires hit Sampaloc, Ermita

A 30-MINUTE fire yesterday hit a residential area in Sampaloc, Manila, leaving at least 10 families homeless. No one was reported injured or killed in the blaze, which started around 11 a.m., according to arson investigators. The fire broke out from a house on Elenita Mendoza on Masbate corner Tuason Street, Sampaloc, and quickly spread to adjacent houses. Another fire razed the YIC Building near the Manila Police District headquarters along United Nations Avenue. A security guard of the building said he saw something had sparked near the stairs on the second floor of the building, prompting him to call the firefighters.

Tina G. Santos

Edsa barriers dismantled

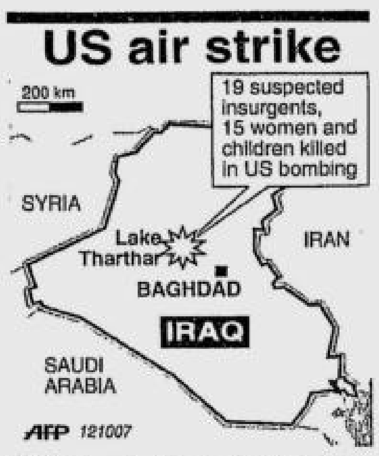
MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benhur Abalos yesterday criticized the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority for placing concrete and metal barriers along the length of Edsa from Shaw Boulevard to Ortigas Avenue which caused massive traffic jams on Thursday. Abalos said the MMDA did not notify them of its plan to separate the lanes in one of the busiest portion of Edsa that fronts three malls: the Shangri-La Plaza, SM Megamall, and the Robinson's Galleria. The Mandaluyong City government removed the barriers on Thursday afternoon. The barriers confused and inconvenienced motorists and bus drivers, who could not change lanes, Abalos said.

Kristine L. Alave

Trinity College reunion

HIGH SCHOOL BATCH 1977 of Trinity College of Quezon City (now Trinity University of Asia or TUA) is calling on all alumni to participate in a reunion to be held at the Quezon City Sports Club on Nov. 17 from 6 p.m. onwards. For details, please visit its website at www.trinity-highschool1977.com or get in touch with the following: Lea Besay, Trinity University of Asia Alumni Affairs Office: 702-2882 loc. 441; Cecileen Torio-Guinto: 0919-8228810 or 743-4049; Luis Monasterio: 0917-5394109, and Eduardo Sabile: 0917-3296647 or 938-2107.

US air strike kills 15 women, children in Iraq



MAP showing the Lake Tharthar region of Iraq where a US air strike Friday killed at least 15 women and children.

BAGHDAD—A US AIR STRIKE in Iraq has killed 15 women and children, marking one of the largest losses of civilian life in a single military raid and a bloody start to Friday's Muslim holiday Eid'l Fitr.

"Nineteen suspected insurgents and 15 women and children were killed in an operation Thursday in the Lake Tharthar region," a US military spokesperson said.

Intelligence reports had indicated that members of al-Qaida were meeting near the lake, a massive body of water about 100 km northwest of Baghdad and a redoubt of the insurgency.

"Surveillance elements observed and confirmed activity consistent with the reports and supporting aircraft engaged the time-sensitive target," it said.

Four suspected insurgents were killed before those surviving regrouped at another building south of Lake Tharthar, once a popular fishing spot of former dictator Saddam Hussein.

"Responding in self-defense, supporting aircraft engaged the enemy threat" after coalition forces and insurgents had exchanged small arms fire at the new location, the US military said.

"After securing the area, the ground force assessed 15 terrorists, six women and nine children were killed, two suspects, one woman and three children were wounded, and one suspected terrorist was detained," it said.

"We regret that civilians are hurt or killed while coalition forces search to rid Iraq of terrorism," said military spokesperson Major Brad Leighton.

"These terrorists chose to deliberately place innocent Iraqi women and children in danger by their actions and presence."

Late last month the US military was accused by Iraqi officials of killing 15 women and children in two air strikes south of Baghdad.

Commanders responded by saying that civilian deaths were regretted and came as "coalition forces search to rid Iraq of terrorism."

According to the Iraqi Body Count website, which keeps an independent tally of Iraqi deaths, between 74,312 and 80,954 civilians have been killed since the US-led invasion of 2003. *AFP*

US Marines inquiry to examine special ops shooting of civilians in Afghanistan

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA—THE US Marine Corps said it would use a rare legal tribunal not employed in decades to try to uncover exactly what happened when a team of special operations troops in Afghanistan opened fire and killed as many as 19 civilians.

The Corps will convene the court of inquiry at Camp Lejeune to investigate the March 4 shooting on a road in Nangahar province, the Marine Corps Forces Central Command said. The Marines last used the administrative fact-finding process in 1956 to investigate a drill sergeant who marched a group of recruits into a South Carolina creek, where six died.

No Marines have been charged in the shooting, said Lt. Col. Sean Gibson, a spokesperson for the Marine Corps at the US Central Command, which includes Iraq and Afghanistan.

The members of the court will be appointed by Lt. Gen. James Mattis, the top Marine officer at Central Command, who will review their findings before deciding whether criminal charges are warranted.

Typically, a general or other commanding officer would simply review an investigative report and make a decision on whether charges are necessary.

Gibson said Thursday that Mattis ordered the inquiry because he "wanted all available information in this incident reviewed by a group of senior officers with combat experience who, because of their mature and unique perspective, could provide him with the best possible evaluation."

THREE-year-old Sunam is dressed in a bridal outfit in Kabul on Aug. 14. Sunam cannot talk yet, but her father Parvez agreed to engage his daughter to her cousin Nieem, 7, because his mother did not have a daughter and desperately wanted one. AP

Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission has said the shooting occurred along a 16-kilometer stretch of road after a mini-van laden with explosives rammed a convoy of troops from the 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion. Witnesses told the commission the Marines fired indiscriminately at civilian cars and pedestrians.

Initial reports pegged the number of dead at 10 or 12. In May, Army Col. John Nicholson, a brigade commander in the 10th Mountain Division, said officials had gone to great lengths to trace down all who might have been injured along the crowded highway and concluded 19 died and 50 were injured.

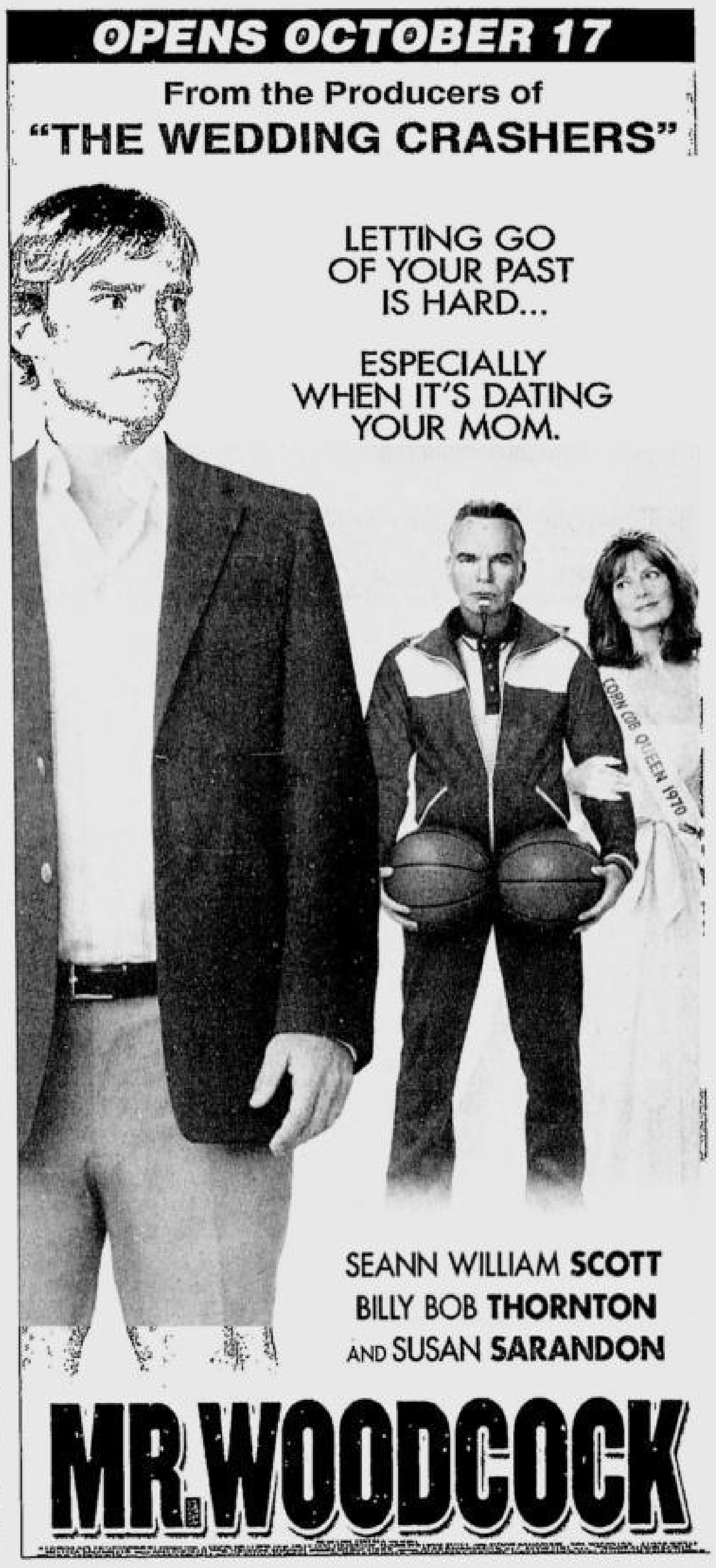
Nicholson also said he was deeply ashamed of the killings and that the military has made condolence payments of about $2,000 for each death. The next week, Marine Corps commandant Gen. James T. Conway said Nicholson's apology was premature because an investigation remained under way.

Eight Marines, including the company commander and senior sergeant, were ordered back to Camp Lejeune after the shooting. The rest of the unit also was ordered to leave Afghanistan, returning to the ships of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Persian Gulf.

The public sessions of the court of inquiry will be held at Camp Lejeune, the home base of the unit involved. No date has been announced for what is likely to be a two-week proceeding.

The Navy last used this kind of special panel in 2001 to examine what happened when the nuclear attack submarine USS Greeneville surfaced and rammed the Ehmie Maru, a Japanese fishing boat. The Ehmie Maru quickly sank, killing nine men and teenage boys.

An Air Force spokesperson said his branch of service had not used a court of inquiry in at least 25 years. *AP*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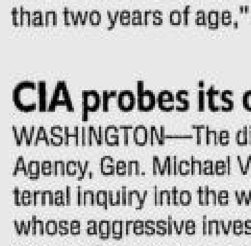
WORLDBRIEFS

Muslims seek cooperation with Christians

Scores of Muslim clerics, theologians and academics issued an open letter on Thursday to all Christian leaders saying the two religions need to work more closely together, given that they share the basic principles of worshiping one God and loving thy neighbor. The letter notes that 55 percent of the world's population is either Christian or Muslim, "making the relationship between these two religious communities the most important factor in contributing to meaningful peace around the world." The letter is being seen as an effort to tackle the strained relations between the two faiths as well as to address the widespread perception in the West that moderate Muslims are mute about violence. The letter notably lacks signatures from key figures in the puritanical Wahhabi sect of Islam prevalent in Saudi Arabia. The sect's emphasis on shunning non-Muslims is often considered a root of violence toward the West. But experts consider the letter an important step toward getting moderates on both sides to overcome a tradition of hostility.

NYT

Top infant cold drugs pulled from US stores



TYLENOL Infants' Drops Plus Cold & Cough AP

WASHINGTON—US drug makers are pulling from store shelves top medicines relied on by millions of parents to fight colds and other common ailments in infants over concerns of possible overdose from misuse. The Consumer Healthcare Products Association, a pharmaceutical industry group, announced Thursday that manufacturers were voluntarily recalling 14 leading over-the-counter (OTC) oral infant cough and cold medicines. The makers of brands Dimetapp, Little Colds, PediaCare, Robitussin, Triaminic and Tylenol said they initiated the recall "out of an abundance of caution." "Kids' OTC cough and cold medicines are both safe and effective when used correctly. Rare cases of overdose from misuse, however, have occurred—particularly in infants less than two years of age," the CHPA said in a statement.

AFP

CIA probes its own watchdog

WASHINGTON—The director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Gen. Michael V. Hayden, has ordered an unusual internal inquiry into the work of the agency's inspector general, whose aggressive investigations of the CIA's detention and interrogation programs and other matters have created resentment among agency operatives. A small team working for Hayden is looking into the conduct of the agency's watchdog office, which is led by Insp. Gen. John L. Helgerson. Current and former government officials said that the review had caused anxiety and anger in Helgerson's office and aroused concern on Capitol Hill that it posed a conflict of interest. The review is focused particularly on complaints that Helgerson's office has not acted as a fair and impartial judge of agency operations, but instead has begun a crusade against those who have participated in controversial detention programs.

NYT

US says more warfare tech smuggled to China, Iran

WASHINGTON—MISSILE TECHnology, fighter jet parts, night vision goggles and other US wartime equipment increasingly are being illegally smuggled to potential adversaries, such as China and Iran, the federal government said.

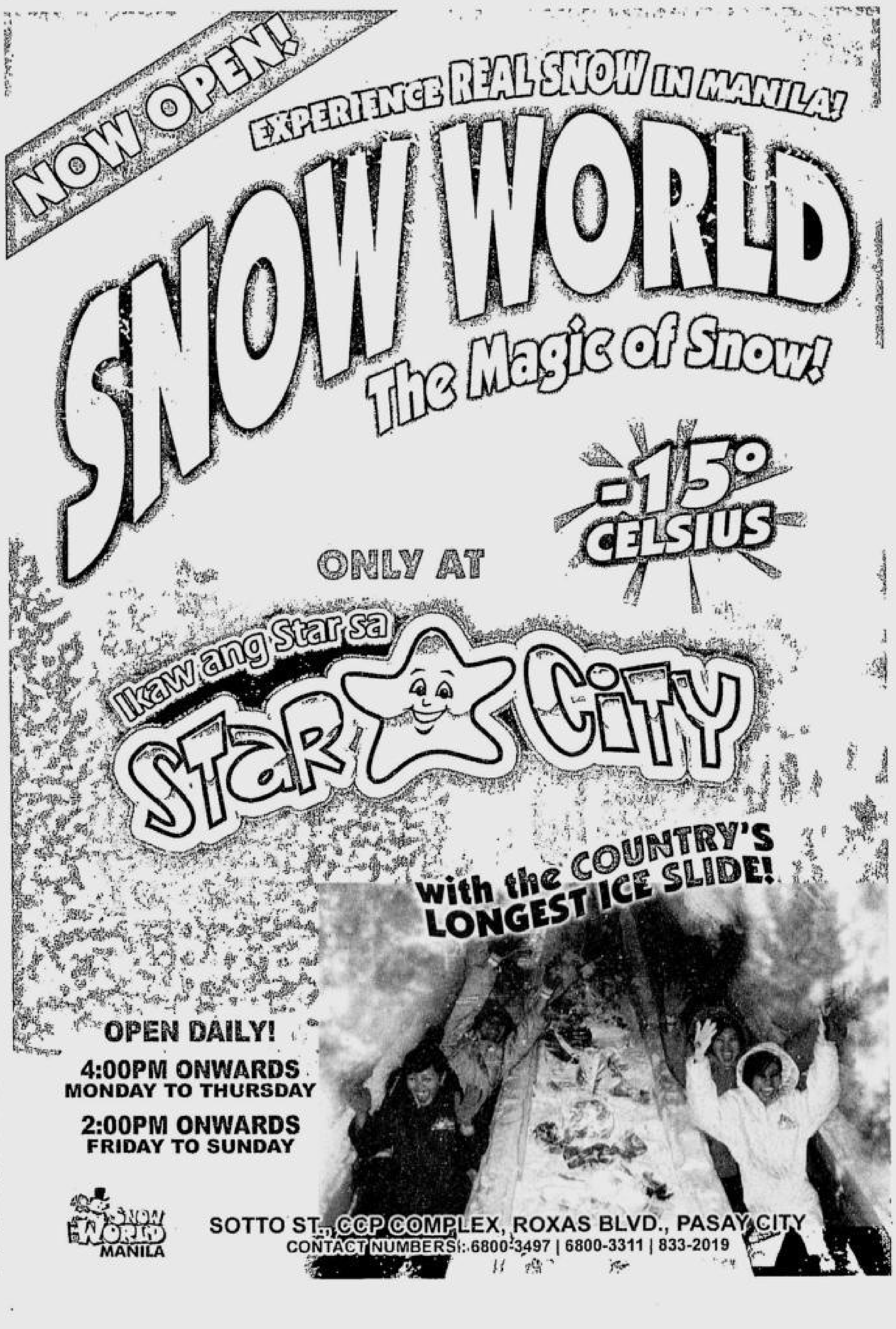
Last week, two men were arrested for allegedly trying to sell parts over the Internet for F-4 and F-14 fighter jets—which are only flown by Iran. The week before, two engineers were indicted on charges of stealing computer chip designs intended for the Chinese military.

Officials acknowledged Thursday that some smuggled equipment might be used for peaceful purposes, such as spark gaps that are used in medical machines to break up kidney stones but also can trigger nuclear detonations. Government lawyers and investigators described a growing number of unauthorized exports that could be dangerous if they end up in the hands of terrorists or hostile nations.

"The concept of terrorists, criminals or rogue nations obtaining weapons and other restricted technology is chilling," said Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Julie Myers.

Assistant Attorney General Ken Wainstein called new government efforts to crack down on illegal exports the justice department's top counterintelligence priority.

A defense department report noted a 43 percent increase in 2005 in what it described as suspicious foreign contacts with US-based defense companies. Another report last year by US intelligence officials found that a record 108 nations were trying to buy or otherwise obtain US technology that is restricted for sale. *AP*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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UN Council slams Burma crackdown

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL THURSDAY slammed the military crackdown in Burma (also known as Myanmar), called for the release of political prisoners and urged dialogue with the opposition icon Aung San Suu Kyi.

In its first joint formal action since last month's prodemocracy protests, the 15-member council said it deplored the repression amid mounting concern about some 1,000 demonstrators still held by the regime.

"The Security Council strongly deplores the use of violence against peaceful demonstrations in Myanmar," said the unanimous statement, adding it "emphasizes the importance of the early release of all political prisoners and remaining detainees."

The junta's violent move last month against protesters led by Buddhist monks left 13 people dead and 2,100 under arrest, triggering an international outcry.

The UN Security Council statement, which was watered down to win the consent of members China and Russia, urged "the government of Myanmar and all other parties concerned to work together towards a deescalation of the situation and a peaceful solution."

The statement also called on the junta to "create the necessary conditions, for a genuine dialogue" with opposition icon Aung San Suu Kyi "in order to achieve an inclusive national reconciliation with the direct support of the United Nations."

Amnesty International welcomed the statement but said it did not go far enough.

"Obviously, we wish the Council had spoken out much stronger and had called for the immediate unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other prisoners of conscience," said Irene Khan, the London-based human rights group's secretary general.

Burma's state-run media has said more than half of those arrested during the protests have been released, but there has been little word of at least 950 still in custody.

YOUNG monks walk in downtown Rangoon, Burma, on Oct. 12. AP

Amnesty reported the junta had arrested a top democracy activist, while a monitoring group in Thailand said one protester died after being tortured during interrogation.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), made up of former detainees who have fled to Thailand, said Wednesday that one detained dissident had died "as a result of torture" during interrogation.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon is to send his special envoy Ibrahim Gambari back to Southeast Asia this weekend for talks on Burma with regional partners and to prepare the ground for a return visit to Rangoon (Yangon).

US Ambassador to the UN Zalmay Khalilzad said Thursday's statement would strengthen Gambari's hand in his negotiations with the military regime.

And he urged Burma's ruling generals to do what the statement demands, warning: "We will not relent, we will persist until the situation is put on a right trajectory."

Gambari, a seasoned troubleshooter who is the UN pointman in efforts to promote national reconciliation, will first go to Thailand and then head to Malaysia, Indonesia, India, China and Japan, before hoping to return to Burma.

Britain's UN Ambassador John Sawers highlighted the fact that Thursday's move marked the council's "first ever (formal) statement" since the Burma crisis erupted.

"It is a very strong and very clear message to the government of Myanmar that the Security Council is united in its opposition to the way in which the (military regime) has pursued its policies at home," he said.

It is the latest in a series of moves by the international community aimed at bringing the junta to task, with the United States—Burma's harshest critic—also threatening new sanctions.

Meanwhile, on the streets of Rangoon businesses are struggling to recover after the security crackdown. Armed forces no longer patrol the streets, but a night-time curfew and a general climate of fear were keeping people inside. *AFP*

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UK's Doris Lessing wins 2007 Nobel Literature Prize

NEW YORK—DORIS LESSING, NOBEL laureate. This year's winner of the literature prize should inspire a fresh look at the long, prolific career of the author of "The Golden Notebook" and dozens of other works, and a fresh debate about the taste of Nobel judges.

The 87-year-old Lessing, whose novels, short stories, memoirs and plays have reflected her own unexpected journeys across time, space and ideology, was praised Thursday by the Swedish Academy for her "skepticism, fire and visionary power."

"I've won all the prizes in Europe, every bloody one, so I'm delighted to win them all," said Lessing, alighting from a taxi outside her brick row house in North London as reporters gave her the news. Her previous honors include the James Tait Black Memorial Book Prize and the W.H. Smith Literary Award.

LESSING AP

"It's a royal flush," she said.

For at least one generation of women, "The Golden Notebook," Lessing's 1962 novel about a writer's personal and political reckoning, was a moment of self-discovery comparable to "Catch-22" for antiwar protesters or "The Catcher in the Rye" for teenagers.

But the Swedish academy's announcement was stunning even by the standards of Nobel literature judges, who have been known for such surprises as Austria's Elfriede Jelinek and Italy's Dario Fo, picks challenged for valuing political dissent over artistic merit.

Lessing, almost two weeks short of her 88th birthday, is the oldest choice ever for a prize that usually goes to authors in their 50s and 60s. Although she continues to publish at least every other year, she has received little attention for her recent work and has been criticized as didactic and impenetrable.

"This is pure political correctness," American literary critic Harold Bloom, commenting on Lessing's Nobel, said. "Although Ms. Lessing at the beginning of her writing career had a few admirable qualities, I find her work for the past 15 years quite unreadable ... fourth-rate science fiction."

Lessing, ironically, is herself a critic of political correctness who broke with the British Communist Party in the 1950s, has often presented women (including herself) as vain and territorial and has insisted that "The Golden Notebook" is not a "trumpet for Women's Liberation," as she wrote in the introduction for a 1993 reissue.

"I think a lot of romanticizing has gone on with the women's movement," she said in a 2006 interview. "Whatever type of behavior women are coming up with, it's claimed as a victory for feminism—doesn't matter how bad it is. We don't seem go in very much for self-criticism."

The former Doris May Tayler has never liked to be told what to do, or how to think. In her memoir, "Under My Skin," published in 1994, she remembered herself as a contrarian child with a mantra of three stubborn words: "I will not."

She didn't need teachers; only her eyes and mind. As a girl, she read "The Secret Garden," biblical tales, Rudyard Kipling, history books about Napoleon, the Crusades, and Benjamin Franklin and Charles Dickens, whom she chose against the advice of the nuns in her convent. By age 10, she had written a one-act play featuring Shakespearean monarchs.

"I didn't go to school much, so I taught myself what I knew from reading," Lessing, who dropped out as a teenager, said in 2006. *AP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Lakers now willing to ship out Kobe /A26

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SPORTS

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UAAP stars eye repeat over NCAA aces today

By Jasmine W. Payo

UAAP STALWARTS AIM TO REIGN ANEW AS THEY BATTLE THE NCAA standouts in the Bantay Bata All-Star Game at 4 p.m. today at The Arena in San Juan.

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—Side events
4 p.m.—UAAP Stars vs NCAA Stars

But La Salle coach Franz Pumaren, who will call the shots for the UAAP All-Stars, hopes his team can pull off the victory without putting too much pressure on Archers JV Casio, TY Tang, Cholo Villanueva and Rico Maierhofer.

The La Salle mainstays are understandably still tired after leading La Salle to the UAAP men's crown over University of the East just six days ago.

"They're mentally and physically drained, I don't think I can demand anything from them," said Pumaren. "It's all for fun, for the players' bonding and fellowship."

Another highlight will be the 2 p.m. exhibition that includes the slam dunk contest won last season by University of the East's Elmer Espiritu. A three-point competition and a two-ball shoot-out will be the other side events.

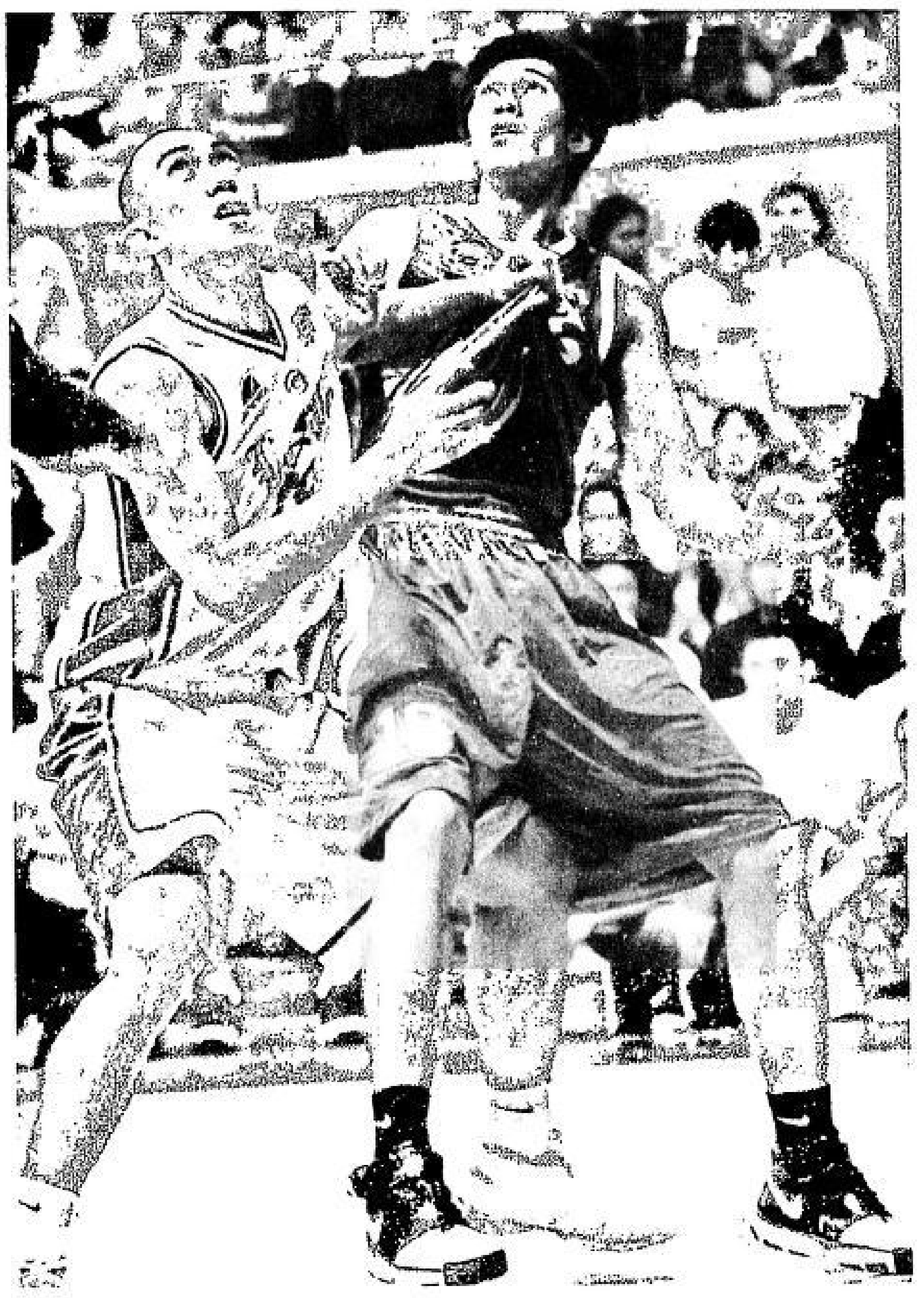
Even without Most Valuable Player Jervy Cruz, the UAAP contingent boasts a solid crew that can go up against the NCAA All-Stars led by Finals MVP Ogie Menor, Nigerian Sam Ekwe, Pong Escobal, Borgie Hermida and Dave Marcelo of back-to-back NCAA champion San Beda.

Cruz, Santo Tomas' do-it-all center, is training with the Harbour Centre-backed Philippine team in South Korea together with veterans Patrick Cabahug of Adamson and Jonathan Fernandez of National University.

Pumaren will also field the top guns of his younger brother Dindo—Mark Borboran and Marcy Arellano—who powered the UE Warriors to a 14-0 elimination round sweep before bowing to the Archers twice in the Finals.

Ateneo's Ford Arao and Nonoy Baclao, National University's Edwin Asoro and Adamson's Roel Hugnatan will man the paint, while Santo Tomas guards Japs Cuan and Dylan Ababou, Far Eastern University's Mac Baracael and University of the Philippines rookie Mike Gamboa complete the UAAP roster.

Coach Frankie Lim will mix his Lions crew with MVP Kelvin Dela Peña of Mapua, RJ Jazul, Bryan Faundo and Dino Daa of runner-up Letran, Jose Rizal's James Sena and John Wilson, Perpetual Help's Mike Kong, San Sebastian's Jason Ballesteros and St. Benilde's Martin Urra.



UE WARRIOR Mark Borboran (right) provides firepower to a **UAAP** squad heavily favored to repeat over its **NCAA** counterpart. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Pumaren turns focus on forming RP Youth 5

By Jasmine W. Payo

PUMAREN

THIS TIME, La Salle coach Franz Pumaren hopes to bring his winning touch to a raw set of talents.

Pumaren turns his attention to the Philippine Youth team just days after steering the Green Archers to their seventh UAAP men's basketball championship.

"I'm meeting with the [BAP-Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas] next week to discuss the plans and programs for the youth team," he said during the Scoop forum yesterday at Kamayan Padre Faura.

Pumaren, appointed as national youth coach last July, will form a pool of 25 players between 14 and 18 years old before training begins next month.

"As much as possible, I want to get some players with collegiate experience," said Pumaren, who also plans to tap aspirants from the provinces.

Tasked to assist Pumaren are San Beda Cubs mentor Ato Badolato and Ateneo assistant coach Sandy Arespacochaga.

Among the competitions lined up next year for the Youth team are the Southeast Asian Basketball Association juniors tournament and the Asian Youth Championship.

The first Youth Olympics will also be among the team's long-term targets following the International Olympic Committee's announcement of the inaugural competitions in 2010.

Cebu to roll out red carpet for Pacquiao

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

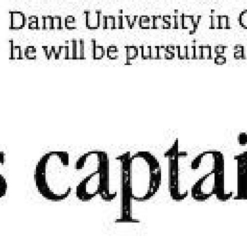
CEBU CITY—THE CITY GOVERNMENT of Cebu is set to roll out the red carpet for boxing icon Manny Pacquiao when he arrives here tomorrow to thank his loyal Visayan fans.

Pacquiao, accompanied by his business associate Rex "Wakee" Salud, is scheduled to arrive in Cebu at 8:30 a.m. From the airport, will proceed to the Sto. Niño Church.

The Filipino boxing celebrity scored a convincing repeat victory over Mexican legend Marco Antonio Barrera on Oct. 6 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Pacquiao and his entourage will proceed to the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel in Lahug for a lunch press conference at the Del Sol room.

Early in the afternoon, Pacquiao takes part in a motorcade that will signal the start of the Pacquiao Cup basketball tournament, where he is scheduled to play in a friendly game with members of the Cebu media.



PACQUIAO

The well-wishers will be led by Mayor Tomas Osmeña and Councilor Jack Jakosalem.

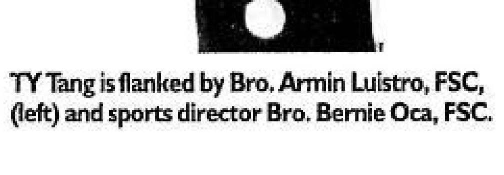
Jakosalem said that after the Waterfront Hotel press conference, another dinner press conference will be hosted by Parklane Hotel at 6 p.m. at its Victoria Ballroom.

On Tuesday, Pacquiao is set to fly to Gen. Santos City for a homecoming and more victory celebrations. Pacquiao will also visit his mother, who was rushed to the hospital but later released on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, Pacquiao is scheduled to attend his first classes at the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City, where he will be pursuing a business course.

La Salle toasts captain Tang

GREEN ARCHERS TEAM CAPTAIN TYRONE Tang received an unprecedented Presidential Medal from De La Salle University president Bro. Armin Luistro, FSC, "for living up to the ideals of a Lasallian student and athlete" last Thursday during the UAAP champions' victory party at the school campus on Taft Avenue.



TY Tang is flanked by Bro. Armin Luistro, FSC, (left) and sports director Bro. Bernie Oca, FSC.

"He is the acknowledged leader of the team, he commands respect from his peers, he reminds his co-players of the sacrifices they need to make and puts his neck on the line to defend them," said Bro. Armin of Tang.

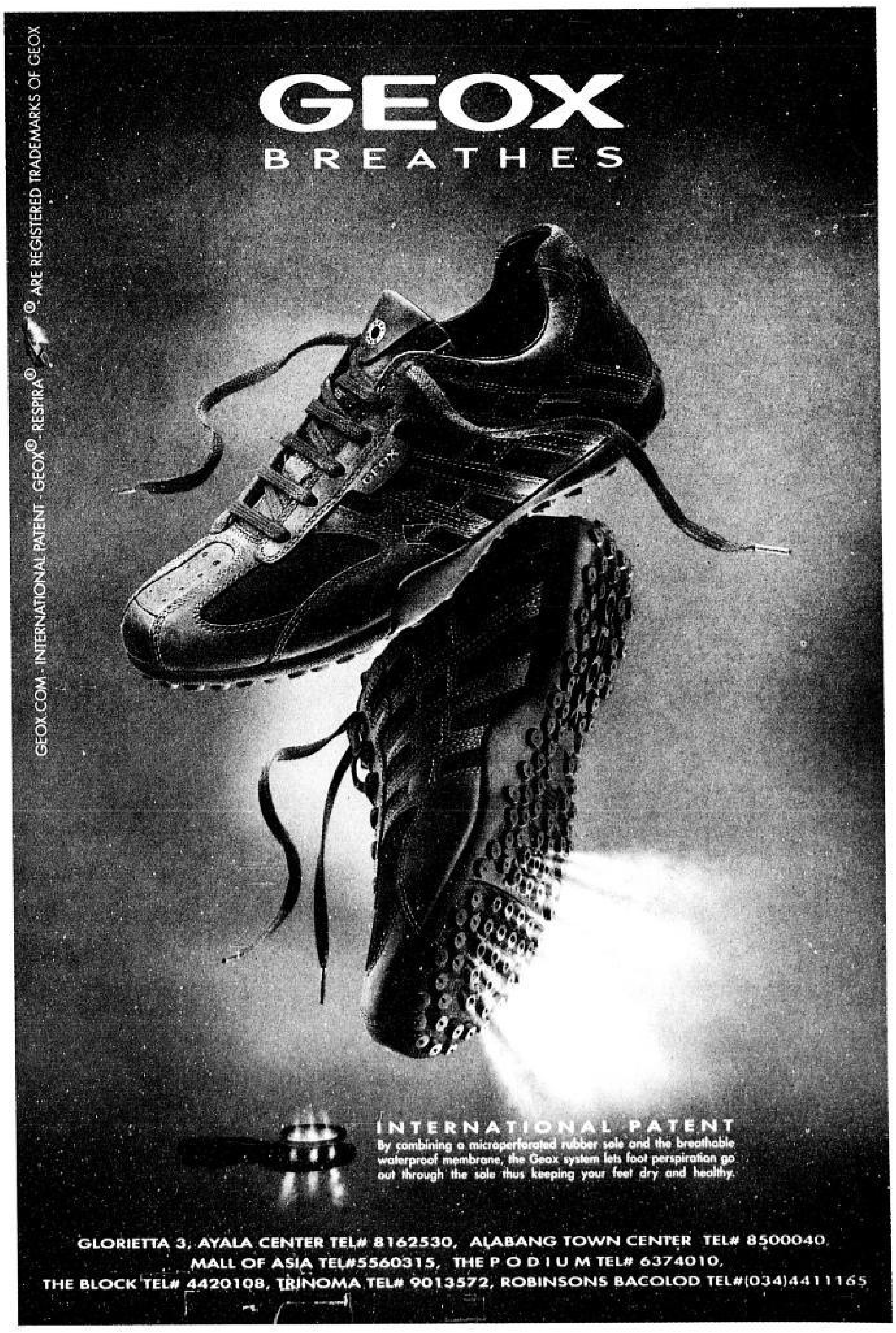
"Most importantly, he showed the Lasallian community, and perhaps the whole nation, that basketball is only a game and there are more lasting values such as friendship and fraternity which transcend competition."

Tang received his medal from his grandmother Emilia. His parents, Rey and Alice, were also around during the celebration.

"I'm happy and grateful to school officials, my parents, my teammates and my fans," said Ty after getting the award, the first ever given by the DLSU president to an athlete.

The DLSU head also praised Tang for "finishing his course requirement on time."

The 23-year-old pointguard has been invited to join the RP-Harbour Centre team that will vie in the Southeast Asian Games together with teammate Rico Maierhoffer.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UST takes on La Salle in V-League opener

THE SANTO Tomas Tigresses celebrate their victory in the Shakey's V-League first conference where they swept the SSC tossers in the finals.

By Romina S. Austria

ONE SQUAD BOASTS OF THE PREVIOUS conference's Most Valuable Player while the other trained in Thailand.

University of Santo Tomas, however, is sticking to its homegrown talents in its bid for a second straight crown, and third overall, in the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament.

La Salle is the defending champion in the league's second conference, which kicks off with a twinbill tomorrow at The Arena in San Juan.

"I'm pretty confident of our chances," UST coach August Sta. Maria said. "I'm sure we can compete with the other teams, even though we're all-Filipino."

"Our motivation is to win back-to-back titles. We will try to tie La Salle up there."

The Tigresses will rely anew on Southeast Asian Games veteran and First Conference finals MVP Mary Jean Balse, 2006 UAAP MVP Venus Tabernal, Angeli Tabaquero, Vida Gutierrez, Aiza Maizo and Denise Tan. Guest player Suzanne Roces, also a many-time SEAG campaigner, will bolster the UST campaign.

The Tigresses won the league's initial tournament in 2004 while La Salle bagged the next three.

Last July, the defending UAAP champion UST swept "three-peat" NCAA winner San Sebastian College for the championship.

The first match on opening day set at 3 p.m. pits Adamson University against Far Eastern University, sixth and seventh placers, respectively, in the first conference.

UST and La Salle square off at 5 p.m.

La Salle will no longer have Thai reinforcement Sanorseang Areerat and will pin its hopes on Reiea Ferina Saet, guest player Maureen Penetrante, Stephanie Mercado, Carla Llaguno, Michelle Datuin, Manilla Santos and Regine Diego.

The Lady Stags are bringing back Thai MVP Jaroensri Bualee while top gun Jinni Mondejar, Margarita Pepito, Rysabelle Devanadera and Laurence Latigay comprise the local support.

The Ateneo Lady Eagles honed their players in Thailand and brought along Lithawat Kesinee in a bid to improve on their fifth-place finish in the previous conference. Their Thai import last conference, Kanchana Jindarat, was hounded by injuries.

The other participating teams are Letran and Lyceum, the WNCAA champion which beat La Salle for third place honors last conference.

The top five teams after the single-round elimination advance to the carryover semifinals, also a one-round phase. The semifinalist that wins three of its four games gains a playoff for the second final berth.

The top two schools then clash for the title in a best-of-three series.

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Wang hands So 2nd straight defeat

Standings after Round 8
7.0 points—GM Ahmed Adly (Egypt); 6.0—GM Wang Hao (China), GM Georg Meier (Germany), GM Ivan Popov (Russia), IM Grigoryan Avetik (Armenia); 5.5—GM Victor Laznicka (Czech Republic), GM Parimarjan Negi (India), GM Dmitry Andreikin (Russia), GM Maxim Rodshtein (Israel), GM Arman Pashikian (Armenia); 5.0—**IM Wesley So (RP)**, GM Daniel Stellwagen (Netherlands), GM Bassem Amin (Egypt), IM Gopal Narayanan (India), IM Davit Jojua (Georgia), IM Sasha Kaplan (Israel), 7 others.

SECOND SHOCKER: Wesley So

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER Wesley So suffered his second straight setback at the hands of top seed Chinese GM Wang Hao Thursday night and tumbled out of the lead pack in the 2007 World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships at the T. Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia.

Handling black, So yielded to Wang, co-winner of the recent 6th Asian Individual Chess Championship in Mandaue City, after 59 moves of an English Opening and was stuck at 5.0 points, good for a share of 11th to 23rd places, after eight of the 13-round tournament.

The 14-year-old So, who has four wins, two draws and two losses, is slated to play white against Israeli IM Sasha Kaplan in the ninth round.

Wang gained a tie for second to fifth places at 6.0 points with German GM Georg Meier, Russia GM Ivan Popov and Armenian IM Grigoryan Avetik.

Egyptian GM Ahmed Adly, conqueror of So in the seventh round, remained on top with 7.0 points after checkmating GM Victor Laznicka of the Czech Republic in 28 moves of a King's Indian Attack.

Adly's real worth will be known when he tackles Wang Friday.

Meier trounced GM-elect Gopal Narayanan of India, Popov defeated GM Daniel Stellwagen of the Netherlands while Avetik nipped GM Gawain Jones of England.

Laznicka stayed at 5.5 points and shared sixth to 10th places with GM Parimarjan Negi of India, GM Dmitry Andreikin of Russia, GM Maxim Rodshtein of Israel and GM Arman Pashikian of Armenia in the 80-player Boys' 20 and under class.

In the Girls' 20-and-under play, Russian WIM Vera Nebolsina stayed on top with 7.0 points after a 52-move draw with Mongolian WGM Bathuyag Mongontuul.

Filipino Woman National Master Aices Salvador yielded to WIM Swaminathan Soumya of India and got mired at 4.0 points in the 58-player girls' field. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Republic of the Philippines
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
Pasig City

Ordinance No. 14
Series of 2007

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 20, SERIES OF 1999, REGULATING THE ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OF VIDEO MACHINES SUCH AS FAMILY COMPUTERS, NINTENDO, ATTARI AND SIMILAR EQUIPMENT, GADGETS AND/OR CONTRIVANCES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF PASIG AND PRESCRIBING THE PENALTIES FOR ITS VIOLATION.

Authored by : Councilors Renato G. Lipana, Alejandro E.Santiago, Regino S. Balderrama, Reynaldo R. San Buenaventura III and Virgilio I. Del Rosario

SECTION 1. Section 3 (b) 2nd paragraph of Ordinance No. 20, Series of 1999 is hereby amended to be read as follows:

> Any business permit issued in violation of this prohibition, shall be considered null and void. As a consequence, Business Permit and License Office shall issue an order or automatic cancellation of aforesaid permit. The equipment used in the business operation of the video machines shall be confiscated by the Inspection Team authorized by the City Mayor.

SECTION 2. Section 5, 2nd paragraph of Ordinance No. 20, Series of 1999 is hereby amended to be read as follows:

> In addition to the above penalties, conviction under this Ordinance will include forfeiture and burning of the video equipment used in violation of the provisions of this Ordinance. Provided, an inventory is made and witnessed by authorized representative of either the Business Permit and License Office and the Commission on Audit or both.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the approval and publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED, this **30th** day of **August 2007** at Pasig City.

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Councilor

RODRIGO B. ASILO
Councilor

RENATO G. LIPANA
Councilor

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ROSALIO D. MARTIRES
City Vice-Mayor
Presiding Officer

APPROVED:
ROBERT C. EUSEBIO
City Mayor

Attested By:
LOIDA U. VILLANUEVA
Acting City Council Secretary

(PDI–Oct. 13, 2007)

PSA tees up with 'My Olympic Dream' plan

THE SECOND LEG OF THE Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) golf tournament, sponsored by Brickroad Fitness and Aspen Spas, tees off today at the Luisita Golf and Country Club in Tarlac, with guest players from the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Former Tarlac congressman and POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. will host today's activities.

Special prizes courtesy of Brickroad Fitness and Aspen Spas will be raffled off during the awards ceremonies.

The sportswriting fraternity will present to Cojuangco the project "My Olympic Dream," which aims to raise P2 million as the PSA's support to the Filipino athletes' training fund for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

The project is co-presented by Brickroad Fitness and Aspen Spas general manager Kristine Mae Robles, Express Miles Travels and Tours, Sta. Lucia Group of Companies.

Robles said the launch of the project, which coincided with the first leg of the PSA golf tournament at The Orchard Golf and Country Club last month, generated interest among member firms of the Sta. Lucia Group of Companies, headed by her uncle Exequiel Robles and her father Levy Robles.

She expects to raise the P2 million donation to the POC through ticket sales of P50 each by March next year.

"Our partner companies have shown great enthusiasm in the project," the young Robles said. "My father is in fact planning to make this a continuing project as our contribution to help Philippine sports, in partnership with the PSA."

Also throwing their support to the "help-the-athlete" project are Green Nature, Readymix Construction, Uber Salon, Sta. Lucia Mall and China Bank-Sta. Lucia Branch.

The PSA golf tournament is being backed by PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez, the Philippine Basketball Association, Philippine Basketball League (PBL) commissioner Chino Trinidad and deputy commissioner Tommy Ong, San Miguel Corp., and Shakey's V-League.

Ernie Gonzales, sports features editor of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, and Adrian Flores of the Business Mirror will be back to shoot for back-to-back crowns in Classes A and B, respectively.

Doves foil Lightnings, level Ucaa title series

THE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI Colleges Doves turned the tables on the Asian College of Science and Technology Lightnings, 69-59, yesterday in their championship series in the sixth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (Ucaa) men's basketball tournament at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports Complex.

Leomer Losentes topscored for the victors with 20 points as the Doves forged a winner-take-all Game 3 at 9 a.m. today at The Arena in San Juan.

Losentes joined hands with Rex Leynes and Raymund Ilagan in a 12-4 spurt which shoved the Doves in front to stay, 20-16.

"The boys showed their will to win today," said St. Francis coach Luis Monfort. "Hopefully, we'll come out with more energy and fire in Game 3."

The Lightnings took Game 1 with a 65-61 decision.

Nikko Pupos bannered the Lightnings with 17 points.

The Doves overcame the Lightnings' third-quarter surge, with Ilagan and Es Santos combining to move St. Francis ahead, 56-42.

SPORTSWATCH

Paragua draws Barbosa, captures open crown

TOP SEED GM MARK PARAGUA SPLIT the point with NM Oliver Barbosa in the seventh and final round to rule via tie break the Codiñera Open section that concluded over the weekend at the St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong City.

Actually, Paragua who wound up a final tally of 5.5 points out of possible seven tied in the first-second positions with Barbosa. However due to better tiebreak Paragua claimed the title while Barbosa took the runner up honor in this annual event organized by Metropolitan Chess Club.

Sharing third with 5.0 points each were Allan Macala, NM Rolando Andador, IM Ronald Dableo and NM Nelson Villanueva. Completing the cast were IM Ronald Bancod (7th), NM Ronald Llavanes (8th), Peter Lim (9th) and Mirabeau Maga (10th).

Ninth seed Emmanuel Emperado topped the 1850 section.

Ateneo leads FBL meet

ATENEO'S TEAM A AND B POSTED IMpressive victories over the weekend to pace their respective groups in the mini division of the Futures Basketball League (FBL).

Ateneo A beat Holy Trinity, 36-22, while Ateneo B dominated Multi-Intelligence School, 66-9, for both squad's third straight victories.

The other mini game saw Don Bosco prevail over La Salle Greenhills, 26-15.

The midgets' division had St. Jude posting a 20-0 victory over Don Bosco-Mandaluyong; La Salle Green Hills winning over Colegio de San Agustin, 77-48; San Beda Alabang beating Don Bosco Makati, 61-29; and De La Salle Zobel besting Sta. Clara, 52-45.

In the girls division, San Beda clobbered OB Montessori, 41-12, and St. Theresa's College blanked UPIS, 20-0.

NCFP executive chess set

THE FIFTH LEG OF THE NATIONAL CHESS Federation of the Philippines Executives and Professionals Chess Challenge will be held on Oct. 20 at the Boracay Clubhouse along 13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City.

NCFP executive director lawyer Sammy Estimo announced the resumption of the series supported by Tawhay Boracay Resort Condos, Inc. yesterday.

The champion will receive a certificate for a two-night stay for two persons at a Boracay beach resort. The second to fifth placers will win appliances and finals slots.

For inquiries, call GM Eugene Torre (09228822870), Dr. Jenny Mayor (09194782209) or Estimo (09159360354).

Fast Track MX Nationals

A SERIES OF NATIONAL MOTOCROSS events, dubbed as (OAS) on the Any Sunday Motocross Races will be held at the Fast Track Circuit in Taguig City on Oct. 21, Oct. 28 and Nov. 11.

Mayor Freddie Tinga of Taguig City hailed the success of the Fast Track, which was put up to host international and national motocross and off road events.

The classes to be run are the 50, 65, 85, Enduro Class, Beginner Production, Novice Production, Underbone, Veterans , Executive, Pro 125 and Pro Open.

World poker teaser today

PACIFIC POKER PALACE WILL HOLD TOday a guaranteed P250,000 poker tournament as a preliminary event leading to the Oct. 27 and 28 World Poker Championship at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

Ben dela Cruz of Pacific Poker Palace said today's event has P200 as entry fee and P2,000 as buy-in. Multiple re-buy of P500 each and one optional add-on of P1,000 are allowed.

Dela Cruz said the first World Championship No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament will have a minimum prize of $35,000. Buy-in for the World Championship is $500.

Bigtime Salpukan Oct. 24

A LEAN BUT MEAN CAST OF 20 PROMInent derbyists gird up for battle at Makati Coliseum on Oct. 24 via the 165K Bigtime Salpukan 7-stag derby.

According to promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp, each participant must field all seven stags in one day.

Meanwhile, the fifth edition of Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby circuit returns on Monday, Oct. 15.

For inquiries, call 4898828, 8963545 and 8956475.

6-stag derby finals today

THE BLOCKBUSTER SM FARMS OPEN 6-stag derby enters its championship round today at San Juan Coliseum with more than 100 fights lined up.

Today's 3-stag finale, supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, starts at 11 a.m., said hosts Sam Mendoza, Boy Torres and Doc Jovy.

The total guaranteed prize ballooned to P2.7 million due to the big number of entries (340) which include Filipino cockers from the Middle East, Japan, China, Malaysia, United Kingdom, Singapore, USA and Canada.

Guba vs Siso for Asian 14-U tennis crown

MARTINA Guba returns a backhand to Shannine Olivarez in yesterday's girls' semifinal match. INQURER PHOTO/ RYAN LIM

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE GIRL WHO CARRIES THE NAME OF two tennis greats proved she can also be a champion.

Martina Jonicka Guba bucked peso coin-sized blisters in both toes to finish off many time age-group champion Shannine Mae Olivarez, 6-0, 6-3, yesterday to advance to the girls' singles finals of the Agra Cup-Asian 14-U Series at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Sally Mae Siso made it an all-Filipino final after stunning second-seed Malaysian Theiviya Selvarajoo, 6-2, 6-3, in the other semifinal.

Guba, sister of national campaigner Yannick who was also named after France's Wimbledon champion Yannick Noah, admitted that beating Siso won't be easy, having lost to her twice by retirement, also due to blisters.

"*Malakas po siya* (She is a tough foe)," said Guba, a high school junior from Dona Hortencia Salas Benedicto HS in La Carlota City.

Guba disposed of Malaysian top seed Adelle Chia Boey in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

However, she's worried over her blood-red blisters which she always gets during tournaments despite wearing five layers of socks.

Siso, a high school freshman from University of San Carlos in Cebu City, just might take advantage of it. She showed cunning by using a variety of shots to nullify Selvarajoo's height advantage.

"Aggressive, *kaya sinubukan ko lahat* (so I tried everything)," said the 13-year-old Siso of her Malaysian foe.

Her brother Bernardine wasn't as lucky, bowing to Malaysian top seed Ariez Elyaas Dean Hashsam, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, in the semifinals.

The loss prevented a second all-Filipino singles finals after Leander Lazaro bested gutsy Tim Polero, 6-3, 6-3, for the other finals slot.

The 5-foot-9 Lazaro unleashed the full might of his baseline game on Polero. Lazaro is a former junior champion from St. James Academy in Malabon.

Barrios, Chua out to draw up road map

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

BEFORE HIS SHORT-TERM VOCATION COMES to an end, Philippine Basketball Association officer-in-charge Renauld "Sonny" Barrios hopes to put in place something that will last a little bit longer.

Barrios and league chair Tony Chua of Red Bull are cooking up a road map of sorts that will point a league that has encountered yet another crossroad to a general direction it will take in the next few years.

"We really have to identify some sort of a goal that we all can look forward to, even at least for the next three years," Barrios said yesterday. "The chair is a very hardworking person and I'm sure we can come up with at least a vision for the board to discuss and deliberate on before the Philippine Cup is over."

Barrios's stint as OIC ends when the Philippine Cup, which opens tomorrow, closes.

The road map, Barrios hopes, will steer the league to a fixed direction so that it won't face an identity crisis. The need arose after the league reformatted its rules to fit the international style of play and at the heels of a planned conversion into a corporation.

BARRIOS

"Mainly, we just want to revisit a few of the principles the PBA is based on," Barrios explained. "We want to see if there are new principles that need to be put in place like perhaps standing in the forefront of international competitions and what are the things needed to be done if these principles are adopted."

Barrios said that he and Chua will also try to hold a dialogue with the board to discuss the possibility of the league going corporate and where the new commissioner will fit into the scheme of things.

"My job is not just to provide a smooth transition from former commissioner [Noli] Eala to his replacement but also to make sure that when his replacement arrives, he will no longer have problems adjusting because his job description will be well-defined," he explained.

Barrios is also hoping to expand the PBA's outreach program and plans to strike a partnership with the INQUIRER's read-along program. The plan came about when he heard of the success of San Miguel guard Olsen Racela's stint as a reader.

"We're really very enthusiastic about that project because we feel that if there's one outreach program that the league can really raise awareness for, it's a literacy campaign," Barrios said.

Asked about any short-term plans, Barrios replied: "A shorter opening-day speech."

The response was a jab at his lengthy speech during the Rookie Draft last August.

"I'm going to make sure there'll be no Gettysburg Address this time," he said jokingly.

4 Warrior stars boost Bacchus

By Jasmine W. Payo

BACCHUS ENERGY DRINK gets a boost from four University of the East players out to redeem themselves in the PBL First Conference which comes off the wraps on Oct. 20.

Sweet-shooting James Martinez, the vastly improved pair of Hans Thiele and Pari Llagas, and burly Mark Fampulme are the rookies Bacchus recently acquired to boost a lineup dominated by NCAA aces.

"UE has a good basketball program so I decided to take some of its players," said Bacchus coach Lawrence Chongson, referring to the Warriors who wound up second to the La Salle Green Archers in the UAAP despite a 14-0 sweep of their elimination-round outings.

The Warriors' arrival beefs up the Bacchus lineup led by Mark Cagoco of Jose Rizal, Rey Guevarra and Hafer Mondragon of Letran and Fil-Am Josh Urbiztondo.

The lanky Thiele was among the UAAP's top 10 rebounders, while Martinez also landed in the top 10 in the assist department.

Robert Labagala and Angelus Raymundo, veteran Rey Mendoza, Kenneth Coyukang and Mike Dizon round out the Bacchus roster, youngest in the seven-team field that also includes three-time champion Harbour Centre, San Mig Coffee, Hapee, Toyota Balintawak, Lina Group of Companies and newcomer Pharex.

Palos Verdes snares Sta. Lucia Tour title

RANCHO PALOS VERDES OF Davao recently bagged the overall title in the Sta. Lucia Tour in Bangkok after the tournament committee upheld its protest on an error made in the computation of scores.

Alta Vista of Cebu had earlier been awarded the trophy on the final day of the competitions but the tournament committee, after a thorough investigation, rectified the scoring error.

In giving the overall title to Alta Vista while the 188-strong Sta. Lucia Tour roster was still in Bangkok, tournament director Boy Blue Ocampo gave points to the first eight teams regardless of the club they represented.

But it was in violation of the tournament conditions of play wherein only the top teams in each of the three handicap groups are given corresponding points depending on their finish.

The re-computation had Rancho Palos Verdes taking top spot with 34 points, followed by Orchard with 29 points, Summit Point at third with 28, Alta Vista fourth with 25, Eagle Ridge 22, Lakewood 20, Royale Tagaytay 10 and Caliraya Springs with one point.

"We truly apologize for this incident and trust that Alta Vista will support the decision with the spirit that has bound the competitors of the Sta. Lucia Tour together throughout these years," Sta. Lucia Tour co-chair Vicente Santos and Winifred Gob stated in their letter sent to Tessa Ozoa, general manager of Alta Vista.

It was the second Sta. Lucia Tour overall victory for Rancho Palos Verdes since capturing the Cup for the first time in 2004.

SUGARLANDIA HOSTS PAL INTERCLUB
The men behind the 61st Philippine Airlines Interclub join hands to formally launch the championships during the first Team Captains' Meeting recently. They are (from left) Mark Gaston, GM of Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club; Jess Garcia, Interclub vice-chair; Domingo Duerme, Interclub chair; Panio Torre, president of NOGCC; and Horacio Ramos, GM of Bacolod Golf and Country Club. The PAL Interclub returns to Negros Occidental from Feb. 20 to March 1, 2008. The tournament, widely acknowledged as the country's national clubs championships, has already drawn 161 teams surpassing this year's roster of 141 teams.

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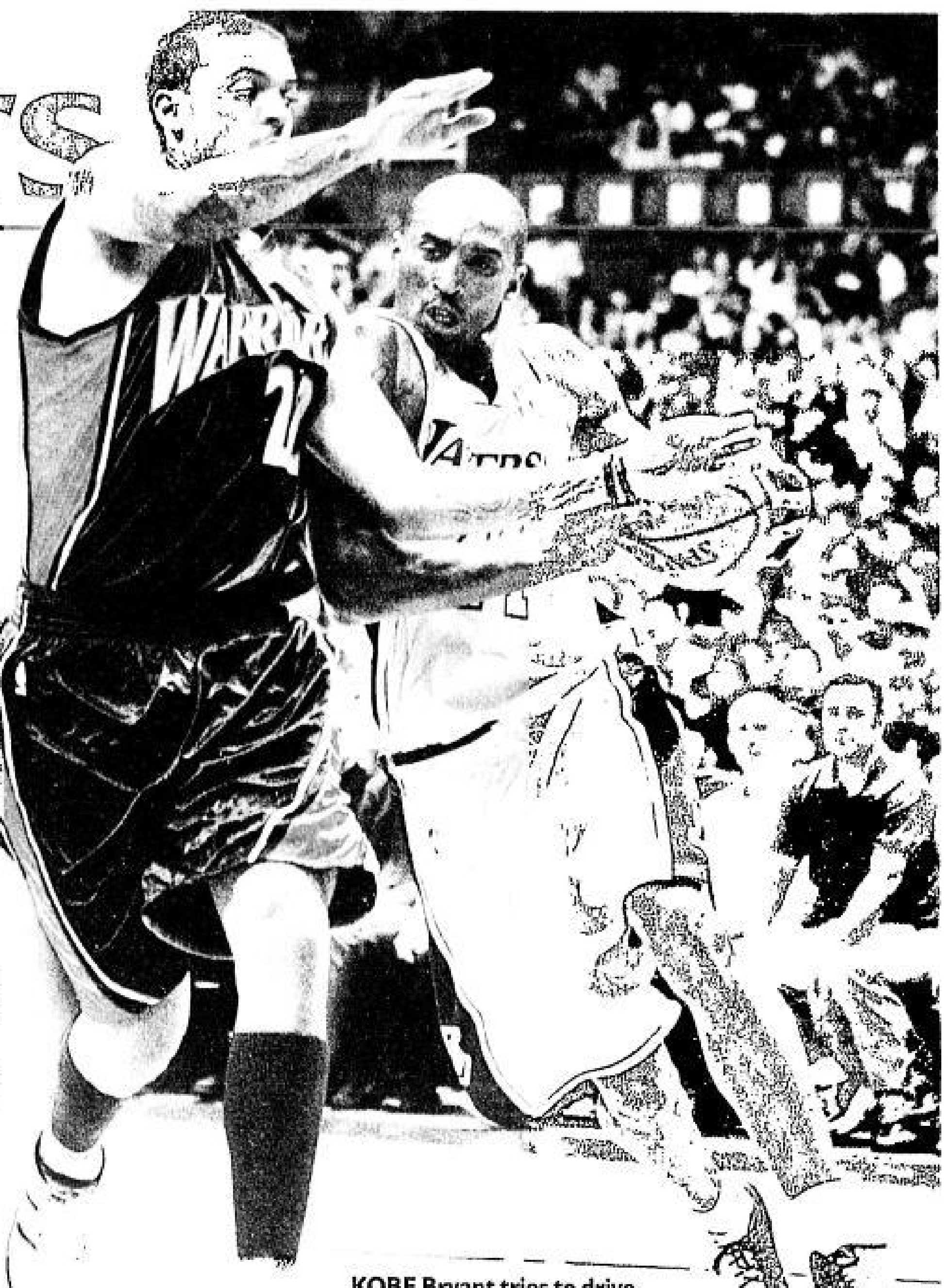

KOBE Bryant tries to drive past Golden State's Matt Barnes in an exhibition match. The Lakers are ready to give in to Bryant's demand for a trade. AP

UNTOUCHABLE NO MORE

Lakers now willing to ship out Kobe

LOS ANGELES—LOS ANGELES LAKERS owner Jerry Buss says he is willing to listen to trade offers for Kobe Bryant, one the most dynamic players in the 60-year history of the franchise.

Bryant, who requested a trade to another National Basketball Association team this summer, has four years remaining on his $88.6 million-contract.

The 74-year-old Buss told the Los Angeles Times that he entertained offers for Bryant but couldn't get fair market value in return.

"I would certainly listen," the newspaper quoted Buss as saying on Thursday. "It is just part of the game, to listen to somebody who has a dissatisfied player that you think is going to fit.

"You can keep too many loyalties. You've got to look at it as a business. He looks at it the same way I look at it."

This is the first time Buss has said he would consider dealing Bryant. He added he hoped it wouldn't come to that but didn't want to risk getting nothing in return.

Bryant, who is in his 12th season with the Lakers, has the option to leave in two years.

"He could test the waters at that point," said Buss, who once said Bryant would be a Laker for life. "If he is still in that frame of mind then hopefully we can do a sign-and-trade and get some comparable talent.

"I would like to think that we win between now and then and so it doesn't come up."

Bryant, the 2005-06 NBA scoring champion, was very outspoken during the summer saying he felt deceived by promises the Lakers would get better. After the Lakers were knocked out of the playoffs in the first round for the second straight year, Bryant said he wanted out.

The nine-time all-star was also caught on an amateur video referring to Buss as an "idiot".

"I was a little surprised at him because certainly he's never said anything to me like that. Always very respectful," said Buss, adding he hasn't seen the video.

In June, Buss had a face-to-face meeting with Bryant where Buss told his disgruntled star he would listen to any trade offers that came in. *AFP*

KEN MONZONES: Impressive comeback

Monzones, 9 other RP karters vie in ROK World Cup today

NEIL KEANE C. MONZONES, BLAZING the comeback trail after dominating local karting's Cadet class several years ago, takes his act to Italy when he competes in the 2007 ROK World Cup starting today at the South Garda Karting Track in Lonato.

Monzones, an 18-year-old civil engineering sophomore at Malayan (Mapua) Colleges of Laguna, joins O2 Kart Racing teammate Mike Casimiro and nine other top guns of RP karting in the tough competition.

Johnny Tan heads the team as chef de mission. Apart from Monzones and Casimiro, the other RP karters are team skipper Jean Stefano Marcelo, Juha Turalba, Javi Benitez, Joey Orduna, Franco Reyes, Vencer John Suba, Paco Rodriguez and Jette Calderon.

Fresh off a superb leg victory in the 2007 Shell Superkarting Series, Monzones will vie in the highly competitive ROK senior division races in Italy.

Monzones, son of prominent architect Neil T. Monzones of Sto. Tomas, Batangas, is sponsored in the Italian trip by Natmo Asia Construction, Casimiro Development Corp., Drueco Auto Supply and Normanworks Custom Paintshop.

The elder Monzones is also grooming his eight-year-old son, Jaz, to race in the Cadet 60 GoKart class.

Real nips Toronto

MADRID, SPAIN—LOUIS BULLOCK and Charles Smith combined for 45 points and Real Madrid rallied for a 104-103 win over the Toronto Raptors Thursday in the finale of the NBA's three-game exhibition tour to Spain.

Bullock converted four free throws over the final nine seconds to finish with a game-high 27 points, while Smith hit a critical late three-pointer to help seal the victory.

"It was a nice game for the Spanish public. It was a good show," Bullock said.

The game marked the return of Jose Calderon and Jorge Garbajosa to their native Spain since joining the Raptors. Garbajosa scored 15 points as the Raptors completed their European tour with a 1-2 record. Andrea Bargnani led Toronto with 23 points.

"The team has spent time together, I've had a chance to show my teammates around," Calderon said. *AP*

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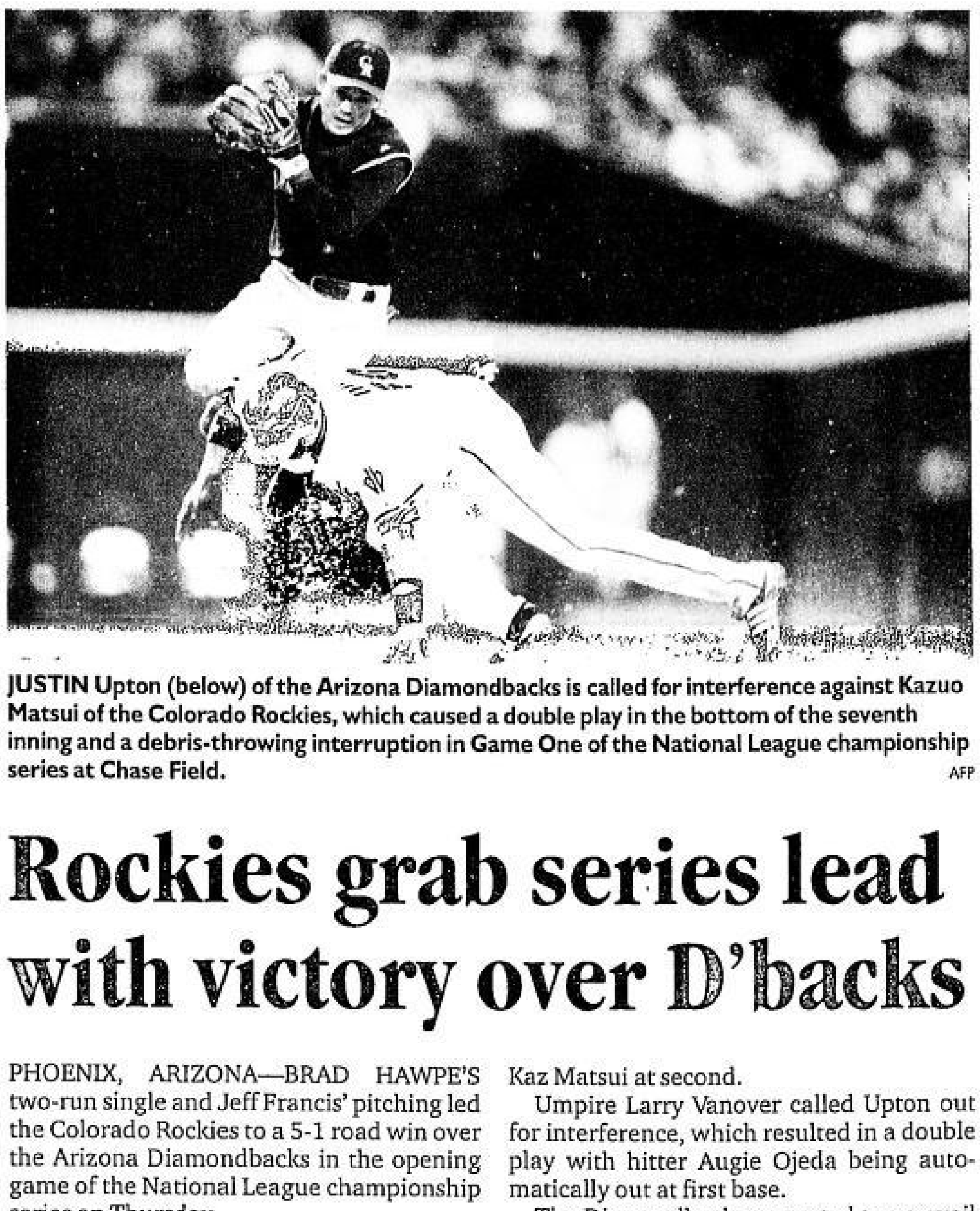

JUSTIN Upton (below) of the Arizona Diamondbacks is called for interference against Kazuo Matsui of the Colorado Rockies, which caused a double play in the bottom of the seventh inning and a debris-throwing interruption in Game One of the National League championship series at Chase Field. AFP

Rockies grab series lead with victory over D'backs

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—BRAD HAWPE'S two-run single and Jeff Francis' pitching led the Colorado Rockies to a 5-1 road win over the Arizona Diamondbacks in the opening game of the National League championship series on Thursday.

In a game delayed by unruly fans, Hawpe's clutch two-out hit put the Rockies in command with a 4-1 lead and Francis kept Arizona at bay with a seven-hit performance over six and two-thirds innings.

But the Rockies' 18th victory in 19 games did not come without controversy.

A disputed interference call against the Diamondbacks in the seventh inning led to a delay of more than five minutes after fans threw water bottles and other objects on to the field.

"Enough's enough," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle told reporters after his team was pulled off the field for several minutes before returning.

The controversy started after Arizona's Justin Upton, running from first base, knocked down Colorado second baseman Kaz Matsui at second.

Umpire Larry Vanover called Upton out for interference, which resulted in a double play with hitter Augie Ojeda being automatically out at first base.

The Diamondbacks protested to no avail as boos filled Chase Field and fans began throwing objects on the field.

When play resumed, Arizona loaded the bases before Colorado reliever Jeremy Affeldt worked out of the jam.

Francis gave up only one run, on a first-inning double by Arizona's Eric Byrnes.

Then the Rockies's offense went to work against the Diamondbacks' ace Brandon Webb.

Todd Helton scored on a double-play ball to produce a 1-1 tie in the second inning and Matsui put the Rockies ahead on a run-scoring single in the third.

Hawpe made it a 4-1 game with his single to right later in the inning, and Colorado was in command to stay.

"It's a little more comforting pitching with a three-run lead," Francis said. *Reuters*

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S&P sees RP sustaining robust growth

7% GDP expansion this year, 6.5-7% in '08

By Doris C. Dumlao

US-BASED CREDIT-RATING watchdog Standard & Poor's expects the Philippine economy to expand by 7 percent this year and sustain a robust growth of 6.5-7 percent next year after a strong performance in the first semester.

"The benefits of increased fiscal space are clearly beginning to transpire through higher public spending and rising private sector investment," S&P said in a recent report.

The country's GDP, the single most important economic output indicator that sums up the value of all goods and services produced in a given period, grew at its fastest pace in 20 years in the first six months of 2007. The second quarter GDP growth was recorded at 7.5 percent following a revised 7.1-percent expansion in the first quarter.

In the past few years, the country's GDP growth was locked in the 5-6 percent range, a level widely deemed as insufficient to make a substantial impact on poverty reduction.

"With the expected continuation of political and macroeconomic stability and increased public spending, growth should remain high at 6.5-7 percent in 2008," S&P said.

Given the strength of economic growth in the country, however, S&P said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would not likely ease interest rates further in the remainder of the year until the first half of next year.

"The BSP's neutral policy stance should carry over into at least the first half of 2008, after which inflationary pressures may start to manifest if economic growth retains its current strength," S&P said.

The central bank slashed its overnight policy rates by 150 basis points (1.5 percentage points) in July, indicating prospects of a continued benign inflation environment.

"But the flipside is still lackluster credit and demand conditions," the rating agency said.

Last Oct. 4, the BSP further slashed its benchmark rates by 25 basis points. The key policy rates are now at their lowest levels in 15 years—5.75 percent for overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate and 7.75 percent

S&P SEES/ B2

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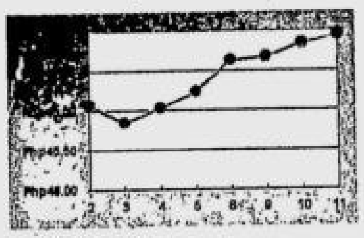


OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 44.05 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 11, 2007

¥ 117.28 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 12, 2007

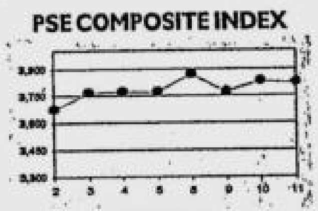
STOCK MARKET

Markets closed for holiday

PHILIPPINE STOCK AND FOREIGN exchange markets were closed yesterday for Eid al-Fitr, the end of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan. The markets will reopen on Monday.

Stocks are likely to touch fresh record highs on the back of positive economic data and strong corporate earnings when trading resumes next week.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



OCTOBER

(See stock market report on Page B6)

Traders said good news was outweighing the bad which added to the market's overall

MARKETS/ B2

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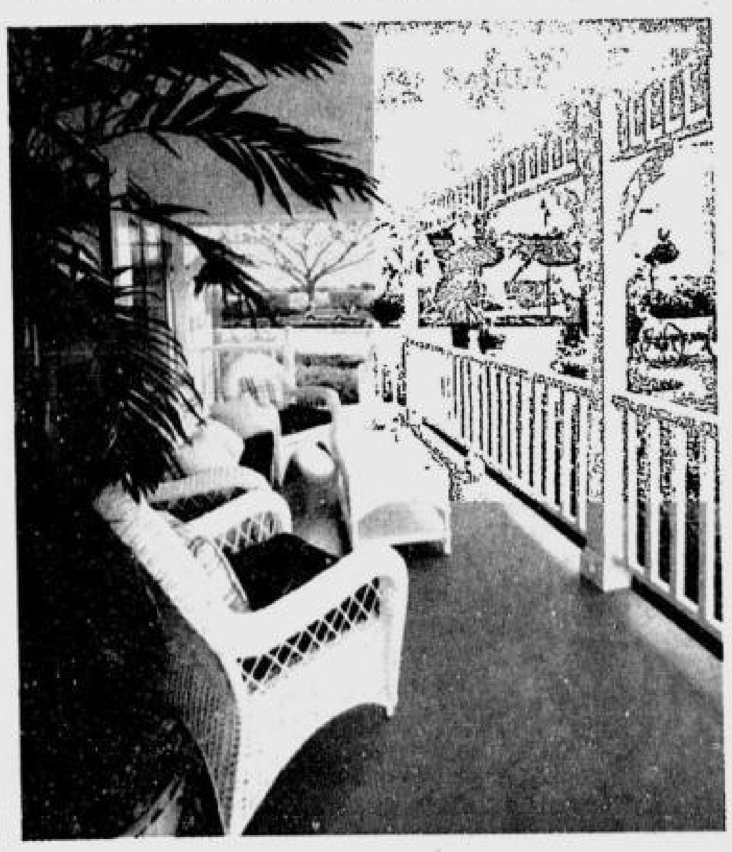
▨ **BSP seeking authority** to issue own bonds /B4



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Vehicle sales jumped 16.6% in first 9 months

Total for '07 seen hitting 10-year high of 108,000 units

By Ronnel W. Domingo

VEHICLE SALES IN THE NINE months to September grew by 16.6 percent, with double-digit growth seen to continue for the rest of the year if economic prospects remained robust.

Elizabeth H. Lee, president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (Campi), said in a joint report with the Truck Manufacturers Association that the groups sold a total of 84,050 units as of end-September.

"The last quarter will be most exciting for buyers as last quarter push to meet year-end sales target will be supported by promotions and programs to sustain momentum until yearend," Lee said.

Local assemblers hope to sell at least 108,000 units this year, representing a 10-year high and an indication of continued growth toward their pre-Asian financial crisis performance.

Data from Campi and TMA showed that overall sales from January to September accounted for 77.8 percent of the full-year target.

Turnover of commercial vehicles grew 23.5 percent in the nine-month period while that of passenger cars grew 5.7 percent.

The CV segment, which includes the subcategories of Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks, and trucks and buses, accounted for 65 percent of total sales.

All four subcategories showed improvements with sales of AUVs going up 26.3 percent to 22,777 units and of light commercial vehicles—consisting of pickups, vans, compact sports utility vehicles—by 21.2 percent to 29,557 units.

LEE

The assemblers also sold 1,499 units of light trucks or 27.5 percent higher while buyers took 655 units of trucks and buses, or 29.7 percent better.

As for passenger cars, turnover increased to 29,5862 units, with September sales rising by 14.5 percent compared to August figures.

In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. kept the lead with 37.2 percent of the market. It sold 31,224 units, increasing by 13.5 percent between comparative periods.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. remained at second with 15.5 percent of the market as sales reached 12,993 units or 28.1 percent higher.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. placed third with 12.8 percent of the market, selling 10,775 units or an increase of 20.3 percent.

In the CV segment, Toyota held 38.8 percent of the market; Mitsubishi grabbed 18.2 percent; and Isuzu Philippines Corp. held 12.7 percent.

After trailing Honda for two consecutive months, Toyota regained the lead in the passenger car category, taking 34 percent of the market compared to 33.7 percent for the former.

Toyota sold 10,058 units of cars as of end-September while Honda delivered 9,970 units to buyers.

Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. remained at third place, selling 2,076 units or 7 percent of the local car market.

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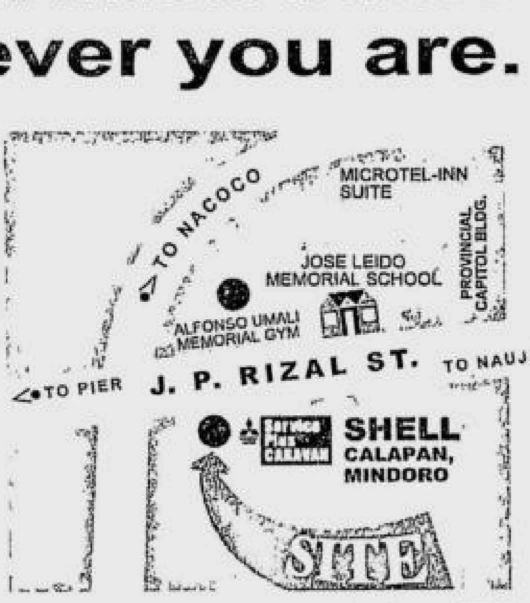

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Airline pushes 'open skies' sans Manila

By Riza T. Olchondra

CLARK ZONE—SOUTHEAST ASIAN AIRlines (SEAIR) is pushing for a variant of the open skies policy that will include all Philippine gateways except Manila and does away with airline designation.

CEO and president Avelino L. Zapanta told reporters on the sidelines of the Airbus A380's test flight here that a partial open skies policy would fast-track negotiations on air services agreements.

"We can just declare our skies as open except in Manila since it is already saturated. Interested airlines may be allowed in whether designated or not, provided their government will promise to allow our airlines into their country," Zapanta said.

"If our airlines are not ready to serve their country yet, at least the local carriers can reserve the right to fly there in the future," Zapanta said.

Zapanta also called on the government to abolish airline designation.

"Airline designation restricts smaller players. Airline designation is the greatest collusion being done by big airlines and government to control air traffic rights," he added.

He noted that the Philippines could draw more than three million tourists a year if smaller players were freely allowed to serve more routes alongside the designated or "flag" carriers.

"PAL for example was resisting the increase of seats to Korea because they don't have that much demand there. But what if other players can serve that route?" he said. "I'm not saying this because we are a small player."

He admitted, though, that SEAIR has not been able to register triple or quadruple growth "as it should" because it was not a designated airline.

S&P sees...

From page B1

for the overnight lending or repurchase rate.

Meanwhile, S&P noted that the country's inflation rate remained well below the BSP's target range of 4-5 percent.

"A recently approved minimum wage increase in the capital was lower than feared by the central bank and the continued strength of the peso also keeps inflation down," it said.

S&P said the country's track record of resilient economic growth, along with robust external liquidity and ongoing reforms to alleviate fiscal weaknesses, was among the strengths of the Philippine sovereign credit.

The rating firm currently grades Philippine government debt at "BB-" or three notches below investment grade with a "stable" outlook. A "positive" outlook indicates a possibility of an upgrade in the actual rating in 12 to 24 months.

However, S&P noted that the following weaknesses remained:

- High public sector debt stemming from a narrow tax base and inefficient public enterprises;
- Heavy, albeit easing foreign currency debt exposure, and consequent vulnerability to adverse exchange rate changes; and
- High level of contingent liability posed by government-guaranteed debt and public partnership projects.

Markets...

From page B1

positive sentiment in recent trading.

For the week to Oct. 11, the composite index rose 48.29 points or 1.28 percent to 3,824.20 points.

Average daily turnover fell to 4.6 billion shares worth P4.62 billion from 6.94 billion shares worth P6.7 billion the previous week.

"Some investors consider the current price levels a good entry point as they anticipate the index will test recent highs as soon as next week," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

"There is more good news than bad news going around right now so overall sentiment remains positive.

"The market is also historically strong during the fourth quarter so we'll likely see more gains," he added. *AP, AFP*

Gov't cracks down on illegal LPG traders

Task force files case against gas company for 'cheating customers'

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PRESIDENTIAL TASK Force on the Security of Energy Facilities and the Enforcement of Energy Laws and Standards (PTF-Sefeel) has filed criminal charges against officials of Pinnacle Gas Corp. for alleged illegal trade practices in the liquefied petroleum gas industry.

Roberto Cardinales, a senior inspector at the Department of Energy's Oil Industry Management Bureau and a member of the PTF-Sefeel, filed with the Quezon City Office of the City Prosecutor charges against Arnel Ty and Jason Ong, president and manager, respectively, of Pinnacle.

The two were accused of cheating their customers by selling adulterated gas in under-filled and substandard gas cylinders, which the task force discovered during an inspection of the company's facilities last week.

Confiscated from Pinnacle were 56 gas cylinders, which would be used as evidence.

According to Cardinales' report, Pinnacle used LPG cylinders that were substandard, under-filled, unbranded, had no identifying markings and no tare weight markings.

The task force members claimed they had witnessed the actual refilling of substandard gas cylinders in the presence of Pinnacle's Ong.

Ong , according to task force member, admitted during an on-the-spot investigation that the company was selling LPG cylinders with the markings of Shellane, Gasul, Totalgaz and Superkalan Gaz without written agreement with the oil firms that owned the brands.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. owns the Shellane brand; Petron Corp., Gasul, and Total (Philippines) Corp., Superkalan Gaz and TotalGaz brands.

Apart from using another company's LPG cylinders—a violation of Batas Pambansa Bilang 33—Cardinales said Pinnacle was also found to be in possession of adulterated petroleum products that were intended for sale, distribution, transportation, exchange or barter.

Cardinales added that Pinnacle also "failed to comply with the clearances and reportorial requirements of the DOE, such that it has not submitted for over the last six years its business plan, photographs of its facilities, environmental clearance certificate, certification of conformance of facilities and latest mayor's permit, Securities and Exchange Commission registration, plant profile, or even its product liability insurance coverage."

"The totality of the crimes and unfair trade practices committed by the accused were made in willful disregard of the said laws (BP 33), posing great risk and hazard to the community, to the LPG industry and even to the general consuming public," he further stated in his filing.

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Building Communities Through Mary

"The message of Fatima is more relevant and more urgent than ever."
- Pope John Paul II

The Blessed Virgin appeared to the shepherd children Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta every month from May 13 to October 13, 1917. On the final day of Her apparition, about 70,000 people gathered in the little village of Cova da Iria, Fatima, Portugal and witnessed the "Miracle of the Sun". Our Lady revealed herself as "The Lady of the Rosary". The apparition in Fatima 90 years ago yielded the same message: Pray for peace. Pray for the reparation of souls. Pray for the intercession of the **Immaculate Heart of Mary**. More than ever, there is a need to pray as a nation and as a family of God. It is through praying together as one that fellowship is restored and peace is achieved as everyone is consciously aware of the **Divine Presence**.

Children's Rosary Movement

It is in this light that the Children's Rosary Movement has been undertaking a silent campaign for the simultaneous praying of the rosary by children ages 7-9 in all the archdioceses nationwide through the annual Children's Rosary Rally.

The late Jaime Cardinal L. Sin started the Children's Rosary Rally in 1996 with former Ambassador to the Holy See, Francisco A. Alba to raise a generation of rosary-praying children through prayer and action and bring the practice of praying the rosary back into every Catholic Filipino home.

For the past nine years, the Children's Rosary Movement in cooperation with the Archdiocese of Manila has conducted rallies for Peace and Unity with the simultaneous praying of the rosary. In the provinces, children together with their bishops, priests, parents and teachers gathered together from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 n.n. in their respective parishes to simultaneously pray the Rosary and celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

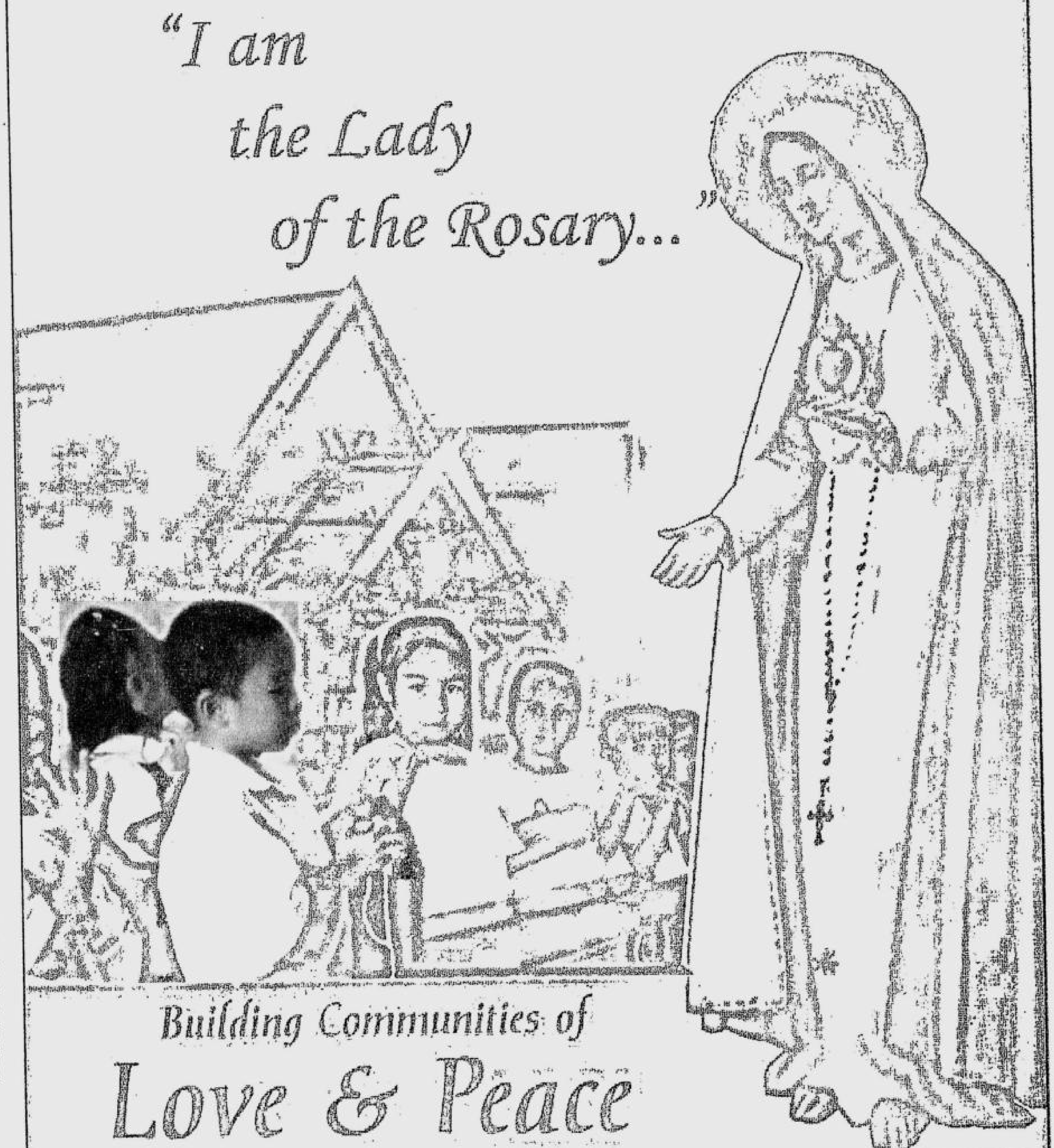
Today, the 9th Children's Rosary Rally coincides with the 90th anniversary of the last day of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima with children reciting the rosary at 10:00 am under the theme: Building Communities of Love and Peace. Mobilization of the different areas in the Philippines for the simultaneous praying of the rosary is done through the endorsement of the Archdiocese of Manila and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in cooperation with the Prudentialife Foundation, Inc.

24-hour Global Rosary

The occasion will also highlight the 24-hour Global Rosary which will enable children from the five continents to join the 9th Children's Rosary Rally to pray the rosary for peace starting at 10 a.m. The Holy Rosary will be prayed continuously by children and their families' for 24 hours in cities of different timezones for peace in the whole world. **The 24-Hour Global Rosary** chain in different cities is made possible by the Couples for Christ Educational Foundation Inc. with its global network for family and life ministries, Focolare members in 182 countries and the Family Rosary Crusade with 17 international chapters. It is hoped that this initiative will become a global movement to strengthen relationships, build communities in love and faith and a commitment to peace and unity. Others may join by SMS messaging service. Text ON ROSARY and send to 2600.

On October 13, 1917, **Our Lady of Fatima** revealed to the three children *"I am the Lady of the Rosary… continue to pray the rosary everyday to earn peace for the world."* She has made countless apparitions in small miracles and historical events.. and she continues the call to build one big community of people who can be child-like in their faith and way of life, who will make peace through prayer as their life mission.

9th Children's Rosary Rally



Today children from the Archdiocese of Manila, in conjunction with the 9th Children's Rosary Rally will gather together for Peace and Unity at the Tiendesitas Activity Center, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City. They will be joined by other children together with their bishops, priests, parents and teachers from 8:30 am to 11:30 am in their parishes nationwide to simultaneously pray the Rosary and celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

The occasion will also highlight the **24-hour Global Rosary.** This will enable children from the five continents to join the 9th Children's Rosary Rally to pray the rosary for peace starting at 10:00 am in their respective countries. The Holy Rosary will be prayed continuously by children and their families for 24 hours in their timezones worldwide.

Watch the 9th Children's Rosary Rally TV special on ANC on October 14 at 5:30 pm and on October 20 at 9:00 am.

Our Lady of the Rosary appeared to three little children for the last time at Fatima, Portugal on October 13, 1917.
The message was to continue praying the rosary everyday to earn peace for the world.

A Joint Project of:

Archdiocese of Manila
CHILDREN'S ROSARY MOVEMENT
FAMILY ROSARY CRUSADE

In cooperation with:

Prudentialife
ORTIGAS FOUNDATION, INC.

BSP seeking authority to issue own bonds

Eyed for inclusion in planned charter amendments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas is seeking authority to issue its own peso-denominated bonds and it wants a provision on this included in the planned amendments to the BSP charter.

"Central banks have the option to float their own paper but the BSP is not authorized by law to do that except in extraordinary situation. You wouldn't want to characterize what we're seeing today as extraordinary just to justify the use of BSP bills," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters Thursday night.

Even at the height of the 1997 Asian currency crisis, the BSP has refrained from issuing high-yielding bonds as a tool to curb speculative attacks against the peso.

The Philippines, like most emerging markets in Asia, has to deal with the continued strengthening of foreign capital inflows, which pump substantial amount of money into the financial system.

Other central banks, including China's, had taken the route of mopping up excess money in the system by issuing three-year bonds.

The BSP, which does not have the flexibility to issue its own debt paper, turned to its previously underutilized special deposit accounts for its mopping up operations. It strengthened the SDAs and turned them into a more powerful mopping up tool.

"All central banks will welcome the flexibility to use its own papers to mop up liquidity," Guinigundo said.

The BSP has so far locked up P450 billion in excess money in its high-yielding SDAs, making the central bank now more reliant on this tool compared to its overnight borrowings.

These SDAs were previously not attractive to banks because they were not backed up by collateral unlike the central bank's primary monetary tool—the overnight borrowings or RRPs.

Under the new rules, even banks' trust departments and non-bank state corporations can now place funds in the SDAs and earn higher interest rates. To make the SDAs more attractive, the BSP also made these instruments eligible as compliance to the required 50-percent liquidity floor, or the portion of bank deposits and deposit substitutes required to be held in the form of negotiable and transferable government securities. The liquidity floor serves as a buffer that can be tapped in case of a bank run or heavy withdrawals.

The reforms in the SDAs allowed the central bank to curb the growth of broad money supply in the country to below 20 percent—or a level deemed sufficient to meet the central bank's inflation objectives.

The BSP is asking Congress for more powers in its charter to better regulate the local financial sector and prevent bank failures. The regulator is also seeking the mandate to:

- undertake risk-based consolidated supervision, which would allow the examination of banks as well as its subsidiaries and affiliates engaged in allied activities;
- compel banks to infuse additional capital;
- approve the transfer or acquisition of shares in a bank that would affect a change in the majority ownership; and
- provide BSP officers immunity from lawsuits.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 454-0254
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Provision of Janitorial Services for 2008

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2008 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P9,340,873.20* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of janitorial services from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 at NFA Central Office. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the provision of janitorial services from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 at NFA Central Office. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 30, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on November 13, 2007 from 1:00 p.m to 1:45 p.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 13, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person - *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address - *Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No. - *(632) 455-2758*
Mobile Phone - *(+63) 928 4102732*
e-mail address - *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website - *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Oct. 13, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-6626 to 29; 929-6633 to 35
926-7041 to 43; 929-6252; 929-1669
Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph / E-mail: web@denrgov.ph

National Program Support to Environment and Natural Resources Management Project
Loan No. 7470-PH and GEF Grant No. TF090073

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has applied for a loan from the World Bank and a grant from the Global Environment Facility to assist the DENR to improve efficiency and effectiveness in its service under its National Program Support to Environment and Natural Resources Management Project (NPS-ENRMP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan and grant to payments under consulting contracts for (i) Monitoring and Evaluation/Baseline Survey/Client Satisfaction; and (ii) Strengthening of the Internal Audit System. The Program's overall development objective is to assist the DENR improve efficiency and Program's overall development objective is to assist the DENR improve efficiency and effectiveness in its service delivery. More specifically, the Project aims to strengthen the allocative efficiency of DENR's limited budget resources through better prioritization and partnership arrangements, facilitating scaling-up and better linking of plan and budget. The global environment objective of the program is to enhance ecosystem services for global and local benefits.

The services required consist of two packages:

Package 1 covers –
(i) Baseline study for the four (4) critical watersheds covered by the GEF grant;
(ii) Baseline Survey of Client Satisfaction with DENR's service delivery;
(iii) Development of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system and procedures for assessing performance and outcome of ENRM; and
(iv) Training of DENR staff in the conduct of M&E functions under the Results Framework for the NPS-ENRMP.

Package 2 covers –
(i) Strengthening Financial Management Systems and Practices; and
(ii) Strengthening the Internal Audit System (IAS).

This invitation is open to all consulting firms/organizations which have capability and extensive experience in providing the required services. Consultants will be selected following the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (revised October 2006).

Interested parties may contact Ms. Ma. Lourdes G. Ferrer, Head, BAC-FAPs Secretariat at telephone nos. 926-2689 for more information and to obtain the prescribed format of Expressions of Interest (EOI) submission. For firms that have submitted EOI last September 17, 2007 in response to our September 4, 2007 (REOI), you are advised to re-submit your expression of interest submission.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered addressed to Atty. Analiza R. Teh, Chairman BAC-FAPs, c/o The Secretariat, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Office, DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City by 3:00 p.m. of 30 October, 2007.

The DENR reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects found therein, and accept the bids as may be considered most qualifying and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANNALIZA R. TEH**
Assistant Secretary and
Chair, BAC-FAPS

Let's Go Green

(PDI – October 13, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD

GRAND METRO ASIA
Applicant.
x---------------------------x
Case No. 07-1162

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, authorized operator of the waterworks system within Granville Homes, Brgy. Malagasang, II-B, Imus, Çavite, requests for the renewal of its Certificate of Public Convenience.

This application will be heard by the Board on **November 5, 2007 at 2:00 in the afternoon at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City** at which time Applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, Applicant shall publish this notice once in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in **Cavite** and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the Applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file his opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed, as a waiver of his right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidences submitted.

Failure by the Applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Chairman of the National Water Resources Board this 2nd day of October 2007.

By Authority of the Board:

RAMON B. ALIKPALA
Executive Director

8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, PHILIPPINES 1100
Tel. 63.2.9202603, 63.2.9202654 Fax 63.2.9202724
www.nwrb.gov.ph

(PDI–Oct. 13, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Fax No. (053) 323-8601

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PEST CONTROL CHEMICALS FOR NFA REGION VIII

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its *Corporate Budget for 2007* intends to apply the sum of *SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY ONE THOUSAND THIRTY PESOS (P761,030.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract of Pest Control Chemicals for NFA Region VIII for the year 2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for 2007 Pest Control Chemicals of NFA Region VIII. Delivery of the GOODS is required within Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed with the following:

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS (duly registered with FPA for use to control stored product pest & officially tested, validated and recommended for use by NFA-TRDD)	QUANTITY	UNIT	ABC/Unit	Total Amount of ABC (Php)
LOT 1 (FOGGING)				
a) Pemphol Methyl 50 EC	36	Liters	4,800.00	172,800.00
b) Permethrin w/ Piperonyl butoxide & S-Biol 50 EC	1	Liter	3,600.00	3,600.00
c) Cyfluthrin ULO15	29	Liters	3,590.00	104,110.00
Total for LOT 1				280,510.00
LOT 2 (PROTECTIVE/RESIDUAL SPRAYING)				
a) Deltamethrin WP 25gms/sachet	360	25 gms/sachet	235.00	84,600.00
b) Permethrin WP 25 gms/sachet	80	25 gms/sachet	300.00	24,000.00
c) Cyfluthrin WP 20 gms/sachet	760	20 gms/sachet	235.00	178,600.00
Total for LOT 2				287,200.00
LOT 3 (FUMIGATION)				
A) Aluminum phosphide	10	tin can or flask with @ least 333 or 334 round tablets/ flask	2,800.00	28,000.00
B) Aluminum Phosphide	78	flask with 500 round tabs/flask	2,060.00	160,680.00
Total for LOT 3				188,680.00
LOT 4 (TERMITE CONTROL)				
a. Chlorpyrifol (TC)	3	Liters	800.00	2,400.00
Total for LOT 4				2,400.00
LOT 5 (RODENT CONTROL)				
A. Coumatetralyl Dust	2	kgs in dust or tracking powder	1,120.00	2,240.00
Total for LOT 5				2,240.00
GRAND TOTAL				761,030.00

The bidders may bid for as many lots as he is interested.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (telephone number (053) 323-4240 fax number (053) 323-8601) and inspect the Bidding Documents at NFA Pawing Palo, Leyte starting October 16-23, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00)* in cash.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 29, 2007 @ 09:00 A.M.** at *NFA Auditorium Lobby, Pawing, Palo, Leyte.*

Bids & eligibility requirements must be delivered during the bid opening on **November 09, 2007 @ 09:00 A.M. at NFA Auditorium Lobby, Pawing, Palo, Leyte.** All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof: Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check (Cashier's or Manager's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank issued in Tacloban City) – one percent (1%); or Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand" – two & a half percent (2.5%). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO J. ADORABLE**
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI – October 13, 2007)

VMC eyes resumption of stock trading

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

VICTORIAS MILLING CORP., the country's largest sugar miller, is planning to revive its trading activity at the Philippine Stock Exchange in 2008.

VMC chair Omar Mier said the company had been servicing its loans diligently—both the principal and interest charges—since two years ago.

"We will just wait for our financial statements and after our stockholders' meeting in February, maybe we can apply (for the resumption of VMC shares trading)," Mier said.

Trading of VMC shares has been suspended since October 1997. It last closed at 87 centavos.

Mier said the company had to show profit for three consecutive years before it could be allowed to resume trading. This is among the requirements imposed by the Philippine Stock Exchange.

As of its fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 2006, VMC posted a net income of P47 million, reversing losses of P270.86 million a year ago.

Revenue from operations as of August 2006 hit P3.77 billion, up from P2.92 billion in 2005. As of the same period, long-term debts of the company stood at P6.77 billion, down from P7.21 billion in 2005.

On July 4, 1997, VMC filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) a petition for debt payment suspension, approval of its rehabilitation plan, and the appointment of a management committee.

Four days later, the SEC issued an order suspending all actions or claims against VMC pending before any court.

On Aug. 8, 1997, the SEC created a management committee which was tasked to submit a viable rehabilitation plan for VMC.

The rehabilitation plan provided for capital restructuring, debt to equity conversion, conversion of loans into convertible notes, restructuring of loans, fresh capital infusion, implementation of a business strategy for operating improvements and sale of non-strategic assets.

VMC has incurred substantial losses from operations and posted an accumulated deficit of P3.6 billion as of Aug. 31, 2006. It also has a capital deficiency of P 1.9 billion as of Aug. 31, 2006, which adversely affected its financial condition and cash flow position.

Shell CNG stations seen opening soon

By Abigail L. Ho

ALTHOUGH NOW PAST ITS end-September commitment to start the commercial operation of its mother-daughter compressed natural gas (CNG) stations, the Shell group of companies in the Philippines says its facilities are ready and that it is just awaiting word from the Department of Energy on when the commercial run can start.

Shell country chair Edgar Chua said its mother-daughter stations had been ready for commercial operation since the end of last month.

"Anytime, we're ready to start. All our facilities are technically complete. They've already been tested and we can start anytime. We're just waiting for the DOE's decision, and for (President Macapagal-Arroyo) because she wants to personally be there when we launch," he told reporters.

The Shell mother station is located in Tabangao, Batangas, while the daughter station is along the South Luzon Expressway in Biñan.

These will enable buses running on CNG to start plying the Batangas-Manila route, helping reduce carbon emissions and enabling bus drivers and operators to drastically cut their fuel expenses.

The operation of Shell's mother-daughter stations is part of the government's Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT), a seven-year pilot program that will peg the price of CNG at P14.52 a liter, less than half the price of diesel, for participating bus operators.

The DOE expects 200 CNG-fed buses to be delivered to the country, 185 of which have already been allotted to accredited bus firms.

The bus operators include HM Transport Inc., 80 units; KL Transport, 40 units; RRCG Transport and Pascual Liner Inc., 20 units each; Greenstar Express Inc. and CNG Vehicles Corp., 10 units each, and BBL Transport System Inc., five units.

The use of CNG in public transport is part of the government's efforts to reduce the country's dependence on imported fuel, as the transport sector accounts for about 56 percent of the country's total oil requirements.

Private equity company investing in savings bank

LINQ INFORMATION ENTERtainment Quadrant, a private equity group in the Philippines with presence in Singapore, is acquiring a 30-percent stake in Malayan Bank.

Malayan Bank CEO George Martirez said LINQ's investment would boost the bank's paid-up capital. The bank also stands to benefit from LINQ's other portfolio investments.

Also, Martirez said the bank had been in talks with a foreign fund for a possible Tier 1 capital investment.

The bank's recent moves, he said, were aimed at diversifying its ownership base and bring in passive institutional investors.

Malayan Bank's major shareholders include the Majalco Group, which is also a major shareholder in GMA Network and Liberty Flour Mills. LINQ's funders include the principal shareholders of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Print Town Group. LINQ is also working with different private equity and venture capital funds in the region and its thrust is primarily geared toward new media, emerging media and digital media businesses. Martirez also said that Malayan Bank's latest earnings are triple from its net profit two years ago, and they will continue to bolster the bank's profitable mortgage banking business within the coming years.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

"We live, but a world has passed away
With the years that perished to make us men." — *William Dean Howells*

Third Death Anniversary of

ENRIQUE M. FERNANDO

Former Supreme Court Chief Justice
(July 25, 1915 - October 13, 2004)

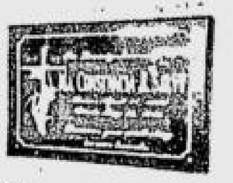
Masses will be offered on Saturday, October 13, 2007 at:

Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, Diliman, Q.C. .... 6:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 6:00 PM
Sta. Maria della Strada Church, Pansol, Q.C. .... 6:00 AM, 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, Loyola Hts., Q.C. .... 6:30 AM, 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM
Santa Ana Parish Church, Santa Ana, Manila .... 6:30 AM
Santo Niño de la Paz Chapel, Greenbelt .... 4:30 PM
Chapel of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Heart Center, Q.C. .... 5:00 PM
St. Vincent de Paul Parish Church, San Marcelino St., Manila .... 5:10 PM

His bereaved widow, **EMMA QUISUMBING-FERNANDO**, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchild request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

SANDBLASTED GRANITE

TOMB MARKERS
(LAPIDA)



PRIT ENTERPRISES INC.
1120 J.P. RIZAL ST., GUADALUPE VIEJO, MAKATI CITY
TEL # 895-8401*896-0292*890-3407*895-9775 FAX# (632) 890-3408
EMAIL: prit@skylnet.net

we design OBITUARIES for free

God's Precious Gift to Us

AURORA BARRIOS MAURICIO

of Quezon City & Zamboanga City
Former Directress of Golden Acres (Home for the Aged)
and
Former Professor of FEATI University

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 12, 2007 at the age of 90.

Her beloved husband, **PRIMITIVO "PRIMING"** (†), children **ARACELI "CELI," FLORENTINO "BOBBY" & CECILLE, AURORA "BABY" & MEL, EDUARDO "EDDIE" & ODETTE** and **NORMIE "MIMI"** or **BONG & WILLY**; grandchildren **TRACY, JOANNA & MIKE, CAMILLE, CARLO, PAUL, CASEY, CAT, KHRISTIAN & IRISH**, request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Shrine, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"You are my father, my God and the rock of my salvation"
– Psalm 89:26

ENGR. NUNILO K. AGONCILLO

"NONONG"
of Taal, Batangas
Numancia, Aklan and Quezon City

Passed away on October 11, 2007 at the age of 71.

His children **Niel, Carlyn, Nap, Cymbe** and **Christine**; children-in-law **Ella, Willie, Mara, Jimmy** and **John**; grandchildren **Nico, Michael, Monic, Margo, Mariane, Napier, Jacylyn, JR, Stin** and **Jeremy** requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Ashes viewing at Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills on October 12-15, Mass at 5:00 p.m., October 15, 2007 at the chapel. Inurnment of ashes follows after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at New Capitol Estates 1 Chapel, Q.C. on October 20, 2007, Saturday at St. Peter's Church, Commonwealth Ave., Q.C.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

PERPETUO "PETE" R. BEJAR

of GSIS Family Bank

who joined our Creator on October 5, 2007,

wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to those who have reminisced the good memories, offered Masses & prayers, sent flowers, mass cards and donations as we mark his passage to eternal life.

Liliane Therese Donesa Kahn

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 10, 2007 at the age of 44.

Her bereaved family, father-**Louis** (†), mother-**FLORECITA "NENI,"** brother-**FERDINAND**, sisters-**SHIRLEY & BERNADETTE**, brother-in-law-**JOAQUIN**, sister-in-law-**ELAINE**, nephews & nieces - **Janine, Jianna, Alexa, Felipe Louis & Lucas**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Ipil Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, October 14, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park-Crematory at 6:00 pm after the 4:00 pm funeral mass.

Interment will be on October 15, 2007 at 9:00 am, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

CLASSIFIEDS

TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II), intends to dispose various scrap materials. All interested parties for the materials listed below are hereby invited to pre-qualify with us.

Bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification requirements: Photocopies of Business License or Registration, Latest Audited Financial Statement, BIR, DTI, SEC, Mayor's Permit and Latest Income Tax Returns (original copies to be shown for authentication purpose).

The Junk/Scrap materials are available for inspection at the Main Office located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac.

VARIOUS MATERIALS TO BE DISPOSED:

I.	KWH Meters with complete parts and cover	—	5,248 pcs.
II.	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER	—	42 units
III.	ASSORTED AUTO TIRES	—	55 pcs.
IV.	AUTO BATTERY 3 SM	—	35 pcs.
V.	MOTORCYCLE VEHICLE (Suzuki 120 cc, 95 model, Running condition)	—	1 unit
VI.	OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
VII.	OTHER EQUIPMENT		

Pre-qualification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MR. RONNIE B. MANGALINDAN at TARELCO II Main Office Building located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac, Philippines.

Submission of Prequalification Documents — October 15-22, 2007
Issuance of Bid Kit — October 22-25, 2007
Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference — October 25, 2007 at 1:30 PM
Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Pre-bid Conference.

Accredited Bidders previously pre-qualified need only to update their files with TARELCO II.

Bids shall be accompanied by a required Bid Bond in a form of Cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check of at least 2.5% of the total amount to Bid.

TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (45) 923-0460 or Fax Nos. (045) 923-0471 & 609-0224.

(Sgd.) RONNIE B. MANGALINDAN
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – October 13 & 17, 2007)

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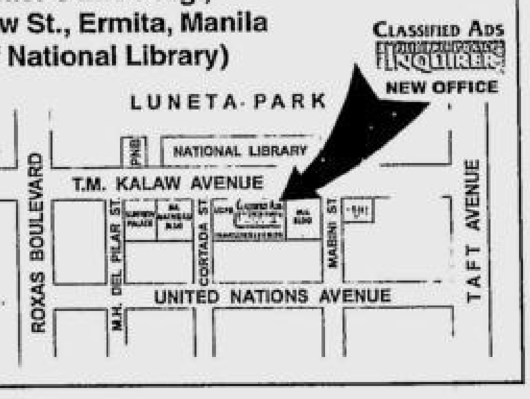

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CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Reward shall be given to any person who will give information leading to the arrest and apprehension of **DR. BENIGNO A. AGBAYANI, JR., M.D. FPOA**, formerly of Healthway Medical Clinic and Manila Doctor's Hospital.

A warrant of arrest has been issued against the above accused in "People of the Philippines vs. Dr. Benigno A. Agbayani, Jr." by the Metropolitan Trial Court of Manila, Branch 26 (c/o Atty. Estrella).

Please contact Joseph – 09165337350.

(PDI–Oct. 13 & 15, 2007)

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

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Stocks slide in Asian trade

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES YESTERDAY fell as weak technology stocks and speculation China may tighten its monetary policy this weekend weighed.

The dollar also steadied ahead of US data expected to shed light on the timing of a next Fed interest rate cut:

Data on September retail sales and producer prices at 1230 GMT will be scrutinized for clues about the health of the US economy, after the Federal Reserve slashed interest rates by an aggressive 50 basis points to 4.75 percent in September.

The odds of a further cut this month have receded somewhat, but investors see a roughly 70 percent chance of more easing this year.

By 0623 GMT, MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan had fallen 1.6 percent.

Tokyo's Nikkei slid 0.7 percent, dragged lower by high-tech stocks such as Tokyo Electron on a brokerage downgrade and after China's Baidu.com Inc. tumbled on the tech-heavy US Nasdaq.

Talk that Beijing may raise interest rates ahead of the start of the 17th Party Congress on Monday also weighed in some markets.

"The markets have been hit by a rumor that China will tighten monetary policy this weekend so investors are being careful and avoiding China-related shares," said Chung Kyung-sik, chief investment officer at Eastar Investment Advisors in Seoul.

China's main stock index recovered to trade almost flat after earlier plunging more than 4 percent, with traders there skeptical of rate hike rumors.

Seoul shares fell 1.6 percent in their largest one-day percentage loss in almost a month, while Taiwan stocks fell 2 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 2.1 percent.

Gold fell around $3 an ounce to $747, after rising as high as $753.60 in New York on Thursday, its highest since January 1980.

The dollar was steady against the euro ahead of the US data.

The yen recovered from a 2-1/2-month low hit versus the euro and rose against other high-yielding currencies, such as the Australian and New Zealand dollars, as the slide in Asian stocks prompted traders to book profits on short-term bets favoring those currencies against the yen.

The dollar slipped a touch to 117.20 yen, retreating from a two-month high of 117.79 yen, hit on electronic trading platform EBS on Thursday. *Reuters*

Oil prices again near record high

SINGAPORE—WORLD OIL PRICES yesterday were mixed and near recent record highs in Asia after data showed a sharp fall in United States crude stocks last week, dealers said.

New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in November, was 11 cents higher at $83.19 a barrel in morning trade.

The contract had surged $1.78 to $83.08 in late trades on the New York Mercantile Exchange Thursday.

Brent North Sea crude for November delivery was eight cents lower at $80.07 a barrel.

Late last month, Brent oil hit a record high of $81.05 per barrel, while New York crude struck an all-time peak of $84.10 in September.

"It seems to have steadied at those levels around which NYMEX closed last night," said David Moore, a commodities strategist with Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney.

He noted an absence of fresh factors to move the market since the US Department of Energy (DoE) issued its weekly report on Thursday.

DoE said American crude oil reserves slumped by 1.7 million barrels in the week ending Oct. 5.

That confounded analysts' consensus forecast for a gain of 1.0 million barrels.

US distillates, which include heating fuel, slid by 600,000 barrels, broadly in line with market expectations for a 775,000-barrel drop.

Traders are watching distillate levels ahead of the approaching North American winter season.

Gasoline, or petrol, reserves gained 1.7 million barrels last week but remain at historically low levels, analysts said.

Societe Generale researchers said in a report the unexpected crude drawdown was mainly due to lower imports.

On Thursday, the International Energy Agency, the developed world's energy watchdog, held steady its forecasts for oil demand for this year and next. The IEA predicted average oil demand to be 85.9 million barrels per day in 2007 and 88 million bpd in 2008. *AFP*

US credit panic will hurt minorities, says lender

LOS ANGELES—GAPS IN HOME ownership rates between minorities and whites will increase because of a change in the US mortgage industry, caused by a credit panic, the chief executive of Countrywide Financial Corp., the largest US mortgage lender, said on Thursday.

"The structure of the business is permanently changed ... The industry will never be the same," said Angelo Mozilo, speaking at a real estate conference in downtown Los Angeles.

He said the credit crisis inspired fear among lenders, who are increasingly less likely to lend to risky borrowers.

"As a result, I believe that five years from now, or sooner, there will be substantial disparities between home ownership between whites and minorities," said Mozilo, whose company is the largest US lender to African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians.

In the future, Mozilo added, banks and thrifts will be the primary providers of mortgage finance, while brokers will take more of a back-seat role.

Separately, North Carolina Treasurer Richard Moore said on Thursday that he had asked the US Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate the timing of stock sales by Mozilo over the last year.

Also on Thursday, Countrywide reported that it cut nearly 5,000 jobs last month, as part of its plan to eliminate as many as 12,000 jobs by December.

The nearly 20 percent cut in its workforce is a response to the decline in the US housing market. *Reuters*

Japan carmakers fight a losing battle at home

TOKYO—JAPANESE CAR MAKERS, LED BY Toyota Motor Corp., have stormed markets from the United States to Europe and beyond, but are fighting a losing battle in a shrinking and disinterested home market.

While Detroit's Big Three—General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC.—struggle to hold market share against popular Asian rivals and luxury European brands, overall US demand remains healthier than in Japan.

The market for new cars and trucks in the world's second largest economy has contracted 7.6 percent so far this year to 4.13 million vehicles. Sales are heading for a third straight year of falls and are a far cry from an annual peak of 7.78 million in 1990.

"I'm not very optimistic about the domestic market," Honda Motor chief executive Takeo Fukui said last month.

Car makers have blamed everything from a shrinking population to lengthier ownership, a lack of interest among young people and competition against other big-ticket consumer goods such as flat-screen TVs.

"There are structural factors that make the domestic market very difficult," said Osamu Masuko, Fukui's counterpart at Mitsubishi Motors, citing in particular a population shift to big cities.

Virtually no brand has been spared the downfall, including Toyota, the world's largest and most profitable auto maker.

Less than a fortnight after standing firm on the company's domestic sales target, Toyota President Katsuaki Watanabe bit the bullet this week, saying local sales this year could be 4 percent below an original goal of 1.72 million vehicles.

Where did it all go wrong?

External headwinds such as soaring oil prices don't help, but some say carmakers are simply not meeting local customers' needs as they develop globally compatible models to save costs.

"I want automakers to build cars that sell," Nanao Oguri, head of the Japan Automobile Dealers Association, said earlier this year. One Nissan dealer interpreted his comment as: build cars that cater exclusively to Japanese needs. *Reuters*

Carlyle expands in Asia

GLOBAL PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM The Carlyle Group is taking in a new director, Anand Balasubrahmanyan, to lead its investment expansion in Southeast Asia.

Balasubrahmanyan, who will be based in Singapore, will establish a Carlyle Asia Partners team.

Established in 1997 and currently with $2.56 billion dedicated funds under management, Carlyle Asia Partners infuses and controls strategic minority investments in companies across the non-Japan Asia region with a team of 33 investment professionals based in six offices in Hong Kong, Mumbai, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore and Sydney.

Balasubrahmanyan joins Carlyle after a 12-year stint in investment banking, most recently as executive director and head of Global Capital Markets for Southeast Asia at Morgan Stanley.

X.D. Yang, managing director and co-head of Carlyle Asia Partners, said: "We see increasing investment opportunities in Southeast Asia. We are stepping up our efforts with a dedicated team based in Singapore under Anand's leadership to pursue investments across the region, especially in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Each of these countries has demonstrated strong economic growth and stability in recent years and we expect this trend to continue. We will partner with local companies and management teams to grow their businesses in their own markets as well as regionally and globally."

Carlyle Asia Partners is part of The Carlyle Group, the largest private equity investor in Asia with $6.3 billion in committed funds under management and more than 100 investment professionals.

CURRENCIES

October 11, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.706714	1.000000	44.1730
Japan	Yen	0.006028	0.008530	0.3768
United Kingdom	Pound	1.443604	2.042700	90.2322
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091112	0.128924	5.6950
Switzerland	Franc	0.597593	0.845594	37.3524
Canada	Dollar	0.720842	1.019992	45.0561
Singapore	Dollar	0.482102	0.682175	30.1337
Australia	Dollar	0.635363	0.899036	39.7132
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.875667	2.654069	117.2382
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.189341	0.267917	11.8347
Brunei	Dollar	0.480464	0.679856	30.0313
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022493	0.031827	1.4059
UAE	Dirham	0.192476	0.272353	12.0306
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.415000	62.5048
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.001092	0.0482
China	Yuan**	0.094084	0.133129	5.8807
Denmark	Kroner	0.134229	0.189934	8.3900
India	Rupee	0.018061	0.025556	1.1289
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209583	0.296560	13.0999
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539517	0.763417	33.7224
Sweden	Kroner	0.109459	0.154885	6.8417
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021695	0.030698	1.3560

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 10, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 10, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 11, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	6,000
73	39.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	67	67	65.5	66.5	716,500
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70.5	72	70.5	71.5	2,061,500
748	508	China Banking Corp.	715	730	715	730	2,640
40	19	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Banking Corp.	40	40	40	40	1,100
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	100
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	2,150,000
75.5	44	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	64.5	66.5	64.5	66.5	2,480,800
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	56	56	55	56	63,800
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	1,000
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28.5	30	28	29.5	3,690,600
90	53	Security Bank Corp.	78.5	79	78.5	79	271,900
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	54	54	53	53.5	996,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.1	5.3	4.1	4.55	131,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.92	1.98	1.9	1.96	2,401,000
16.25	4.2	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13	13	12.5	12.75	554,100
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.95	1.12	0.95	1.1	2,970,000
1,885.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,850.00	1,860.00	1,850.00	1,855.00	1,200
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.7	1,371,000
3.1	1.06	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	190,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	910	1,005.00	905	1,005.00	61,690
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc	2,330.00	2,340.00	2,330.00	2,340.00	360
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	31,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	7,330,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	250,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	68.5	68.5	68.5	68.5	110,800
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	84.5	86	84.5	85.5	460,500
17.25	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.75	17	16.5	16.75	4,255,400
105.45	20	Manila Electric Co.	84	84.5	83.5	83.5	1,173,500
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.1	7.1	6.9	7	18,005,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	7,385,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	99,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	30,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.32	83,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	37,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.08	2.08	2	2	569,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	2,000
61	36.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	55	54	55	1,426,700
9.1	5.3	Pancake House Inc.	9	9	9	9	1,000
10.75	10	Phil. Tob. Flue Curing & Redry Corp.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	2,000
0.98	0.45	RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	600,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.55	2.55	74,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	61.5	61.5	61	61	57,200
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	62.5	62.5	62	62	113,700
0.66	0.25	Swift Foods Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	70,000
5.4	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.4	467,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	16	700,500
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	460,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.99	EEI Corp	5	5	4.8	5	480,000
21.5	6	Federal Resources Investment Group Inc.	11	11.75	11	11.25	501,900
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.5	125,000
2	0.3	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.32	1.36	1.3	1.32	5,789,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.95	4.95	658,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1	1	1	1	20,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.14	Picop Resources Inc	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.45	9,840,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.26	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	77,000
0.17	0.026	AJO net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	11,690,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.84	0.86	0.82	0.83	16,110,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.3	3,438,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.45	3.5	3.3	3.35	350,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	96,200,000
9.7	5.5	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	718,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	57,600,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	23,570,000
1.38	0.52	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	850,000
1.5	0.21	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	160,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.34	588,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	585	590	570	590	280,520
15.25	7.22	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	1,400
5.8	1.36	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.6	4.8	4.55	4.8	5,169,000
10.25	4.2	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.3	9.7	9.3	9.6	2,830,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	20,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	27,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.9	7	6.9	7	298,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.12	205,000
14.5	7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11	11.5	333,500
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	2.16	2.32	2.1	2.28	1,219,000
0.95	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.73	0.68	0.69	5,360,000
11.5	1.38	Minerales Industrias Corp.	8.2	8.4	8	8.1	4,235,000
0.28	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.23	0.235	0.22	0.22	172,150,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.75	0.77	350,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	1,050,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	46,000
452.5	237.84	SM Investments Corp.	405	410	405	407.5	117,610
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	7,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.48	0.51	0.47	0.49	86,910,000
1.06	0.6	Solid Group Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.7	0.77	480,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.46	164,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	1,500
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.42	2,020,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71	470,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	767,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.7	15,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.78	0.82	0.78	0.78	3,020,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	22,050,200
1.86	1	Belle Corp.	1.36	1.42	1.36	1.38	7,304,000
4.7	2.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.25	37,000
2.7	1.08	Cityland Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	45,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	2,780,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.84	0.79	0.83	55,130,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.31	30,680,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	26,642,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.9	1.8	1.84	39,267,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	200,000
1.12	0.25	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.67	0.7	0.66	0.67	20,130,000
4.4	1.75	Megaworld Corp.	4	4.05	3.95	4	44,806,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.6	5.3	4.6	5.2	2,665,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	770,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	500,000
23	12.75	Robinson Land Corp.	19.25	19.5	19	19.5	3,155,700
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.25	4.35	4.25	4.35	1,142,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	5,381,600
3.25	1.18	Shang Properties Inc.	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.55	70,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.69	0.75	0.69	0.72	3,340,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.31	19,010,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	6	6	5.8	6	3,756,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	32	32	31.5	32	26,100
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc	8.9	9	8.9	8.9	283,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.54	1.58	1.54	1.56	383,000
1,705.00	1,070.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,630.00	1,670.00	1,630.00	1,665.00	33,580
3,285.00	2,155.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,105.00	3,105.00	3,070.00	3,090.00	170,880
8.1	4.6	Pilipino Telephone Corp	8	8	7.8	8	1,518,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	11,110,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.8	1,399,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.048	0.048	51,400,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.86	1.86	80,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	23,370,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.42	1.34	1.42	775,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb Com Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	59,500,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	3.4	3.55	3.25	3.35	11,071,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	60,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	40,000
40	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39	39.5	39	39.5	507,800
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	54,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	162,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	150,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	30,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.72	0.72	2,860,000
1.2	0.44	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.8	0.81	0.78	0.81	2,290,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	2,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	67,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	5	5.1	4.95	5.1	348,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	62,500
30	10.5	Paxys Inc	10.75	11	10.75	10.75	1,278,300
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	271,900,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	630,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.25	15.25	14.75	15	2,938,500
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.5	14	12.5	13.25	221,400
10.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	9.5	10.5	8.7	9.8	11,108,000
3.1	0.53	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.55	28,724,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.35	11,900,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	8,180,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.028	46,200,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	19,200,000
30	1.2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	21.75	21.75	21	21.25	1,017,900
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	95,000,000
8.5	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	8,263,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	38	38.5	38	38.5	73,000
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1.04	527,000
1.8	0.57	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	3,754,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	11,300,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	251,200,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	73,700,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	1,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.029	397,900,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	988.77 UP	4.34	20,853,490	651,760,145.00
Industrial	4,792.02 UP	12.42	61,176,200	559,208,980.00
Holding Firms	2,188.00 UP	11.45	495,094,030	568,522,395.00
Property	1,729.41 DOWN	10.01	292,663,500	922,044,350.00
Service	1,860.60 DOWN	16.65	169,031,160	706,364,405.00
Mining & Oil	7,661.19 DOWN	4.91	1,243,737,800	368,007,090.00
All Shares Index	2,393.32 DOWN	1.26		
PSEi	3,824.20 DOWN	10.51		
		GRAND TOTALS	2,282,556,180	3,775,907,365.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

P1.8-B hotel to corner Alabang's 90 percent occupancy rate

Five million foreign visitors are projected by 2010 and balikbayans prefer a less congested area versus the hassles of staying in Manila, Makati and Ortigas

By Tessa R. Salazar

CITING TOURISM AND retirement industries as expanding exponentially in the Muntinlupa area, and the upscale Alabang's demand of up to 100 percent occupancy rate as per Department of Tourism data, developer Corporate Holdings Management Hotels and Residences Inc. has decided to venture on the hotel industry.

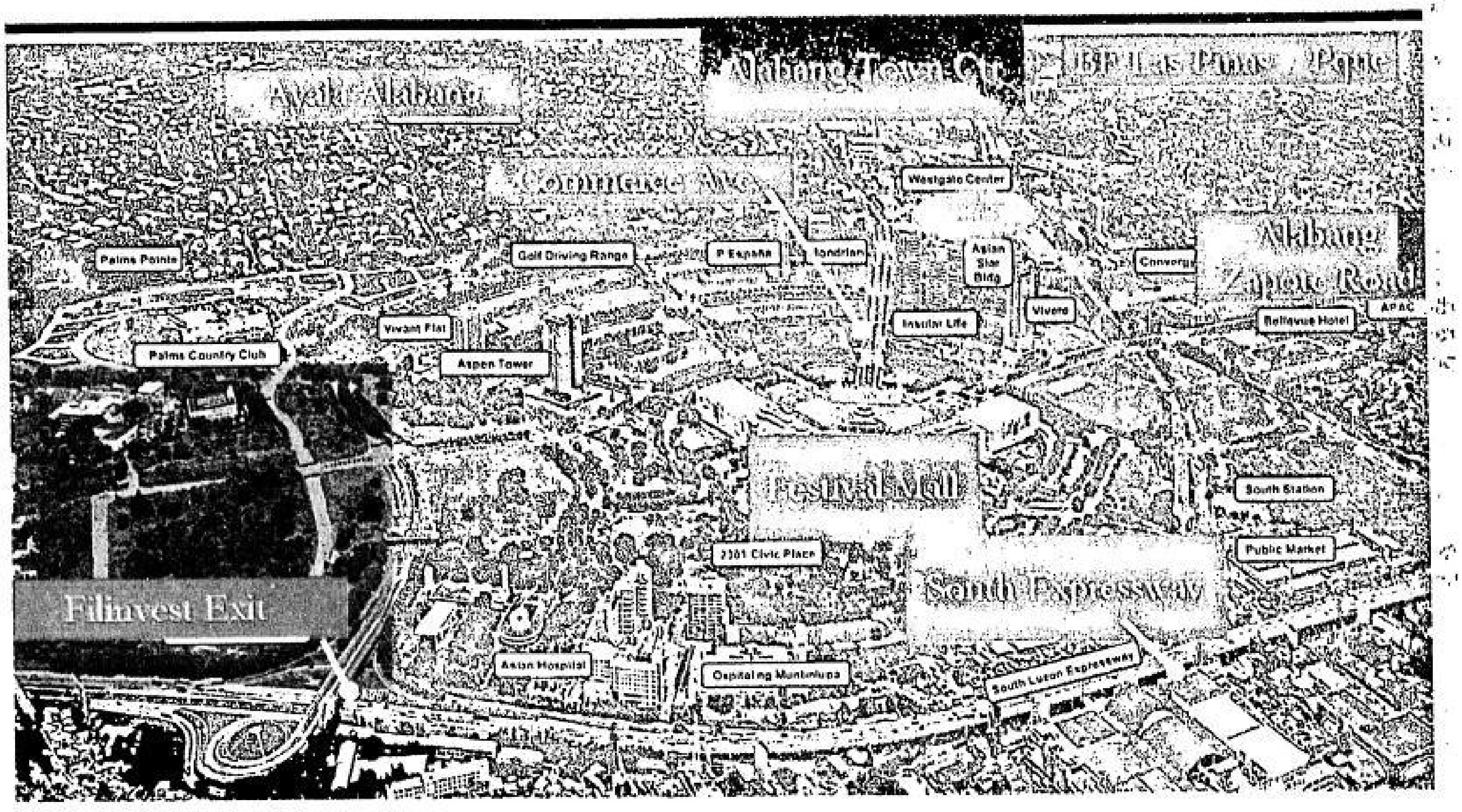
CHMI Chair Noel Gonzales said tourism and retirement industries have been on the upswing, and the global market indicates that it would continue to improve. "Thus, this is the best time for a hotel project," he stressed.

Hotel occupancy

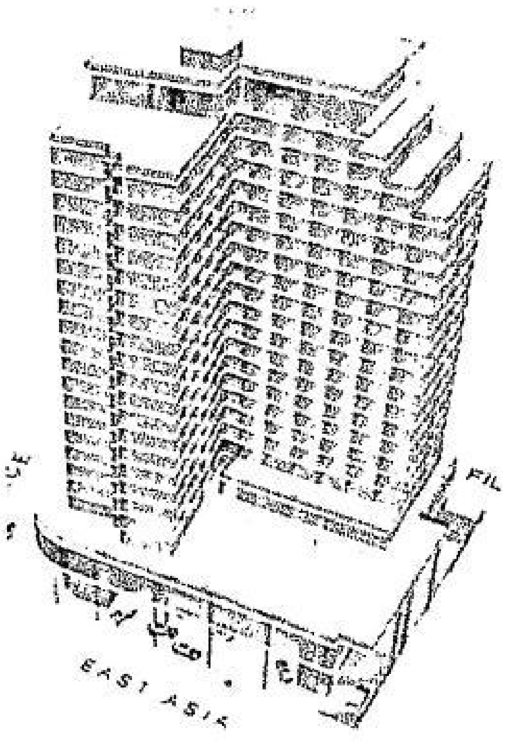
"The main problem today is capacity," said Gonzales, who is also a Philippine Retirement Industry director and a former Subdivision and Housing Developers Association president.

Gonzales cited that the current average hotel occupancy rate in Metro Manila is 76.4 percent. Bellevue Manila located in Alabang has an occupancy rate of 89.2 percent.

Gonzales also cited the five million projected foreign visitors by 2010 and balikbayans who prefer a less congested area versus the hassles of staying in Manila, Makati and Ortigas.


Ayala Alabang
Alabang Town Ctr
BF Las Pinas / Pque
Commerce Ave
Westgate Center
Palms Pointe
Golf Driving Range
P España
londrian
Asian Star Bldg
Converg
Alabang Zapote Road
Vivant Flat
Insular Life
Vivere
Bellevue Hotel
APAC
Palms Country Club
Aspen Tower
Festival Mall
South Station
2301 Civic Place
Public Market
Filinvest Exit
South Expressway
Asian Hospital
Ospital ng Muntinlupa
South Luzon Expressway

THE SITE of the P1.8-million hotel in Alabang


FIL
EAST ASIA

Target market

He said the target market also includes expats of the 1,000 multinational companies in Calabarzon, in Madrigal Business Park and in Filinvest Corporate City.

He also cited relatives and balikbayans of the 250,000 households living in nearby exclusive subdivisions, and "the golfing aficionados due to the proximity to world class golf courses."

Citing Alabang as experiencing up to 100 percent occupancy rates, he said that within Filinvest Corporate City, the 500-room hotel with a target opening in the first quarter of 2011, would be located on Commerce Avenue, which he described as "the Ayala Avenue of Alabang."

"Filinvest Alabang is the best place for a hotel right now." Gonzales said that currently, only one hotel in Alabang has 220 rooms (Bellevue) and two other high-rise buildings that were originally conceived and configured as condominiums (Vivere and Parque España) were partially converted to hotels.

5-star hotel

CHMI will be built as a 5-star hotel. Gonzales said he would be bringing "Shangrila and Peninsula in Alabang at a room rate of $100 without sacrificing the quality of service, the rooms and the ambience."

A ballroom will be built to accommodate up to 1,000 guests and a function room for up to 300 attendees. Aside from a spa (Gonzales owns the former South Spa in Makati), fine-dining restaurants and bars will offer 360-degree views of Laguna de Bay, Manila Bay, Makati Skyline, Filinvest Corporate City and Ayala Village.

Gonzales' long-term vision is to put up a Filipino hotel chain in Cebu, Davao, Bohol, Manila/Makati area and Vietnam.

Bet you won't be able to stay away, too.

It's because it's going to be this exciting picnic. Be there and have your fill of your favorite picnic goodies. Have a taste of white picket fences, a little peace and quiet, fresh air and a generous serving of country living.

It's a picnic complete with a grilling station. Load up on corn on the cob, grilled sausages and hamburgers. Refresh with glasses of ice-cold lemonade.

This is a great opportunity to view your future country home. So don't miss it.

20 October 2007
Lindenwood Residences
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Muntinlupa
10AM

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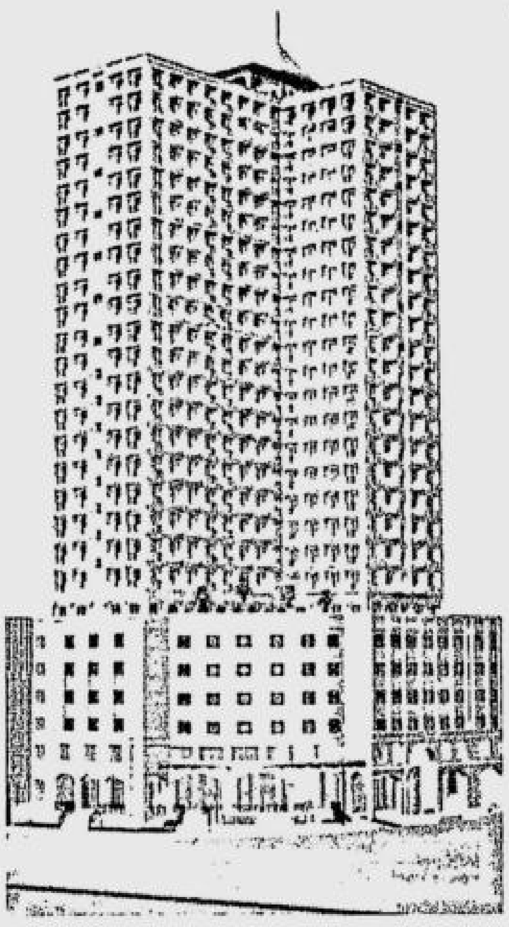
SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
From malls to homes

LINDENWOOD RESIDENCES
at Susana Heights

Property management: a growing business in RP

By Charles E. Buban


TORRE Venezia (artist's rendition), Quantum Hotels and Resorts' latest managed property, is set to open within the year.

ANY RESIDENTIAL property must be taken care of both from the physical (maintenance and upgrade of the place) and tenant-relations standpoint.

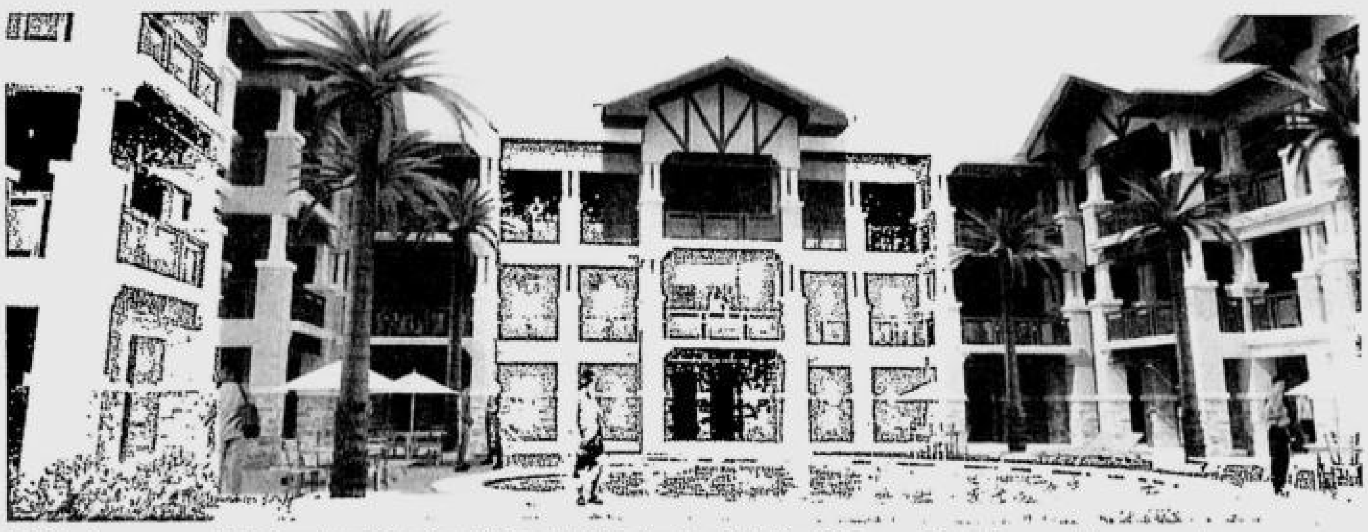
In addition to acting as liaison between the owner of the property and the current tenants, a property manager sometimes takes on the job of attracting tenants.

"Indeed, the knowledge and skills of a property manager are in demand since a growing number of property owners understand that the beauty and grandeur of their developments may not be enough to attract or keep tenants," said Joey Bernardino VP for sales and marketing of Quantum Hotels and Resorts, which manages a variety of properties in the Metro Manila area and very soon, in Boracay.

Test

He added that the test of a property's appeal may lie on how it is managed.

Since its inception in 2000, Quantum Hotels and Resorts has been managing three serviced apartments in the Makati central business district area (BSA Tower, BSA Suites, and Perla Mansion) and one high-end serviced residence located in the Ortigas CBD (The Malayan Plaza).


SET to be managed by Quantum Hotels and Resorts, The Agrias Hotel (artist's rendition) is one of the upcoming developments in Boracay.

"We are proud to announce that all these properties are experiencing an average occupancy rate of 80 percent to 90 percent," Bernardino reported.

New contracts

He also added that Quantum Hotels and Resorts recently inked three more management contracts for one property in Quezon City and two in Boracay in Aklan.

Owned and developed by 24K Development and Construction Corp., Torre Venezia is located at the corner of Timog Avenue and Scout Santiago Street in Quezon City.

Expected to open in the latter part of the year, the 23-story serviced residence will offer one- and two-bedroom units and will be provided with a swimming pool, park and playground, sauna and gym, daycare center, function room, clubhouse and restaurant.

The two Boracay properties on the other hand, The Agrias Hotel and the Boracay Beach Condominium, are expected to be operational by 2008 and 2009, respectively.

"As one may notice, Quantum Hotels and Resorts' main focus at the moment is the continuous improvement of its services as well as expansion of its portfolio so the company would be able to provide excellent accommodations for both leisure and business travelers alike," Bernardino said.

Enhancing curb appeal

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

SPACE IS A PRIME COMMODITY and not many of us have the luxury of it. We continually have to rethink and reinvent our area to suit our ever-changing requirements.

On top of this, we likewise want our space to look neat and presentable. It's a need and a wish we are faced with as soon as we get to our front yard.

Parking

One common problem most homeowners experience is lack of parking space. In many subdivisions, homeowners are forced to park on the street. This practice is a form of injustice to the neighbors. The streets are meant to be used by everyone and are not privately owned, even the one directly in front of your home. Some people even go to the extent of converting their garage to another purpose and parking all their cars on the road. This, of course, is not just an inconsiderate act; it is also against the law. Just because your neighbors are not complaining does not make things all right.

In our country, where lawmakers believe that in order to avoid traffic the solution is to stop using certain cars on certain days, we are obliged to keep more than one car. It is great for our automotive industry, but it certainly doubles the parking problem.

Here is a solution that might work. There is no harm in sacrificing a part of your front yard for additional parking slots. Within secured subdivisions, you can even remove the entire front fence, making your area more spacious and giving you more maneuverability. To maintain some greenery, you can use grass pavers instead of paving over the whole lawn. Grass pavers are concrete products that you can put over the ground and use as driveways, allowing you to keep some of the grass and the soil underneath healthy.

Garbage

A small space or corner of your yard can be allocated for your garbage bins. This spot must be easily accessible to the garbage collector so they can collect your trash anytime without disturbing the household.

The waste bins themselves can be enclosed and gated to keep scavenging animals away. The enclosure will also conceal the unsightly containers from view, especially if it is designed to blend with the side fence or the house.

Main entrance

There are a number of options you can try to accentuate your main entrance and enhance its charm, even from afar. You can choose to define your walkway by erecting a trellis over it and growing plants on it. You may want to add a little bridge way over a pond, which provides a soothing backdrop of running water. Or you could artfully place a bird cage or aquarium to welcome you, if pets are your thing. These design touches could help you relax right before entering your home after a hectic day at work.

Little accent pieces such as a mail or newspaper box may be placed in front of your home. An interesting post or marker can also be positioned at the entrance, with your house number or a patio light. Any of these can be made to highlight your home and add character to it.

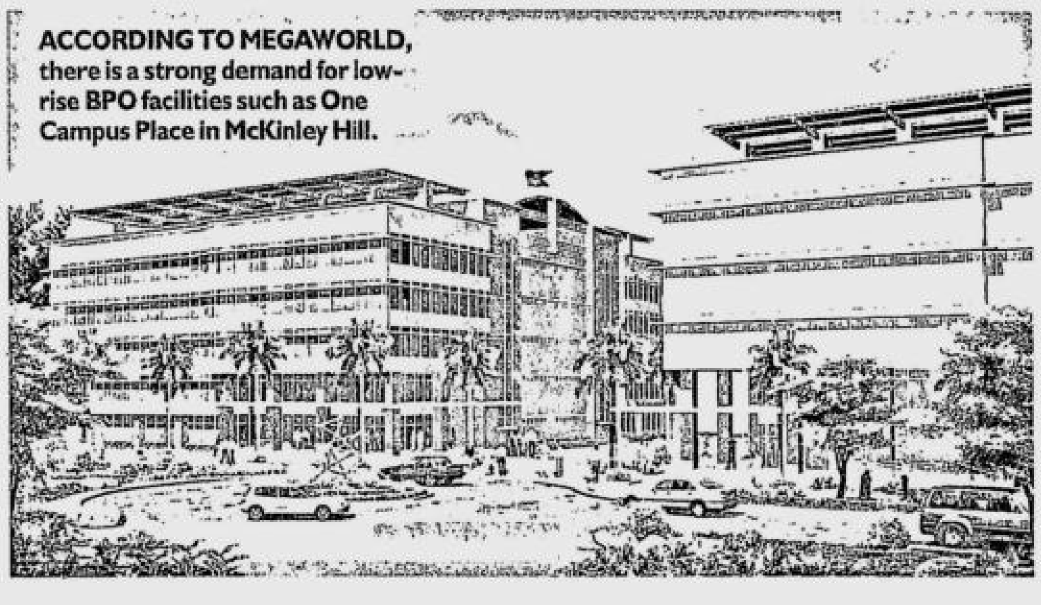
These ideas, while being practical and simple, are only a few suggestions on how you can increase your home's curb appeal.

* * *

For your comments, send e-mail to marcosdeguzman@yahoo.com.

Megaworld cites strong demand for 3rd-generation BPO facility

THERE IS A STRONG DEMAND FOR low-rise, 3rd-generation business process outsourcing (BPO) facilities, according to property giant Megaworld Corp.


ACCORDING TO MEGAWORLD, there is a strong demand for low-rise BPO facilities such as One Campus Place in McKinley Hill.

Megaworld, the country's largest residential and BPO condominiums developer, released these findings after generating a strong demand for its first 3rd-generation offering, One Campus Place, at its fully integrated McKinley Hill township in Fort Bonifacio.

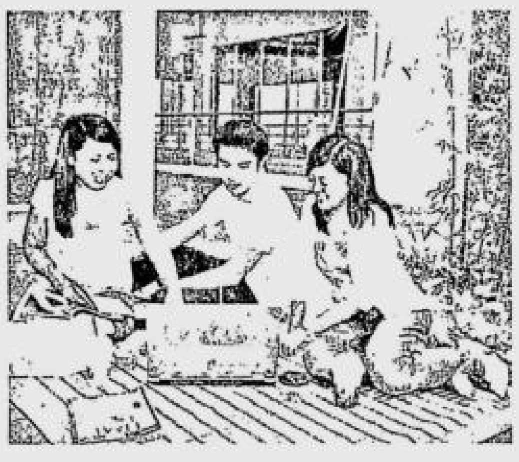
Exclusivity, security

"Clearly, BPO companies have realized that low-rise facilities like One Campus Place give them exclusivity and security. It also gives them many other benefits. The lush landscaping and outdoor amenities help promote an active lifestyle among their employees. Based on their own research, BPO executives believe that these will have a strong positive impact on their staff's work and consequently, their clients' business results," noted Megaworld FVP Jericho Go.

The need of BPO firms for higher employee retention rates is also addressed, according to Go. As a low-rise structure, One Campus Place will only have a limited number of tenants. Or, a company can lease the whole building and gain naming rights in the process. This will inhibit the prevalence of gallivanting recruiters who try to poach employees of their rival companies. Prevalent in high-rise BPO structures, this phenomenon can be minimized in One Campus Place, he noted.

'Green' building

The lush landscaping is not the only aspect that makes One Campus Place a "green" building, according to Go. Wide stairwells promote walking among building tenants, instead of elevator rides. Air conditioning is on demand per section of the floor, thus lowering energy consumption. Wide glass windows also provide natural lighting and a wonderful view of the surrounding landscape.


THE LUSH landscaping and outdoor amenities of One Campus Place is foreseen to have a strong positive impact on the well-being of employees and more important, on business results.

Between One Campus Place's two structures, a park with trellises and benches will provide a suburban feel to building occupants. "It is a relaxing place for them to unwind between their busy work sessions. It gives them an opportunity to be one with nature," Go remarked.

One Campus Place is a six-story, two-building structure at the McKinley Hill Cyberpark. As a facility accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), it automatically gives BPO firms tax and other generous business incentives.

Interested BPO locators may inquire about McKinley Hill Cyberpark's One Campus Place facility by calling (02) 912-0708 or sending an e-mail to jcespinosa@megaworldcorp.com.

TOPNOTCH ARCHITECT DESIGNS NEW PRIMEX CONDO

Primex Realty Corp., world-class real estate developer of residential and commercial real estate projects, awards the design contract of The Stratosphere to R. Villarosa Partners and Associates, headed by architect Roger Villarosa. Rising in a prime corner of Makati, The Stratosphere is a 33-story tower of graceful sculpture of concrete and glass. From left are Primex Realty VP for Legal Ericson Ang, director Antonio Kaw and president Ernesto Ang, architect Roy Villarosa and engineer Rodin Villarosa from R. Villarosa Architects Partners and Associates and Primex Realty corporate secretary Jossie Chan.

Hunter Douglas promoting green building in design tilt

HUNTER DOUGLAS, THE WORLD LEADER in window fashions and architectural products, recently launched the "EcoArt, EcoBuild, EcoWatch: A Global Awareness by Hunter Douglas" design competition.

"This contest is part of the company's campaign to encourage architects and interior designers to come up with green building solutions through environmentally-sound designs. It aims to promote global awareness in nature conservation with the help of Hunter Douglas products such as the Green Screen Shades and Luxalon Wood Grain Linear Ceilings, Claddings and Sun Louvre Systems," said Hunter Douglas president and general manager Gigi M. Lapira.

Open to professionals, students

The contest is open to professional architects and interior designers who are registered members of either of these organizations: the United Architects of the Philippines, the Philippine Institute of Architects and the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers.

It is likewise open to architectural and interior design students who are currently enrolled.

"We want to challenge their creativity in integrating natural resources, human health and community concerns in coming up with cleaner and healthier designs for both occupants and the environment," Lapira said.

Design guidelines

Entries should comply with the regulations of the building code and all materials specified in the plans should be feasible.

Window designs should be treated with Hunter Douglas Window Fashion products, while ceiling covering materials should be Luxalon Aluminum ceilings integrating the Wood Grain products. Luxalon materials may be combined with other ceiling materials only in special designs with faux beam, cove ceiling and drop ceiling.

In line with its theme of "global awareness," designs should be economical, energy-saving and sustainable.

All entries should be original works wholly executed by the contestants. A contestant can submit entries to all category projects but can only win once.

Contestants should submit the following: original entry form, all drawings and presentation requirements (printouts and soft copies in CD format), affidavit, photocopy of PRC identification card (for professionals) and 2x2 photo.

The deadline for the submission of entries is Feb. 29, 2008 at 5 p.m. Contestants must submit their entries at Hunter Douglas Philippines Inc., Ground Floor, Jade Place Building, 33 Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

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5 years of style, elegance at FURNitalia

FURNITALIA, THE COUNTRY's exclusive distributor of Italy's premier home and office furniture brands, celebrates five years of elegance this year. It marked this milestone with a special sale in September at its Fort Bonifacio showroom, according to managing director Florence Ko.

FURNitalia is known for Italian furniture brands used by royalty, celebrities and international designers. Its flagship brand, Poltrona Frau, is a prestigious furniture maker with showrooms in New York, London, Paris and Tokyo.

The lifestyle store is also home to foremost Italian brands such as Molteni&C, Giorgetti, Flexform, Fiam, Fontana Arte, Penta, Serralunga, Comfort and Longhi and Thonet.

The FURNitalia showroom is located at the corner of 30th Street and Rizal Drive, Crescent Park, West Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City.

Exploring the art of deconstruction

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

"BROKEN," "UNFINISHED" AND "wild" are appropriate words to describe a deconstructivist space.

Deconstruction started as a movement in the post-industrial era—first as a philosophy or critical method which analyzed meanings, metaphysical constructs, and opposing thoughts that were applied to ways of thinking and to literary work. It focused on taking things apart rather than putting them together. In art, deconstructivism strove for dynamic appearances and challenged the basic principles of the regularity of form that was so characteristic of the Modernist Movement.

Unlike more traditional design systems where elements fall on a modular grid, deconstruction is virtually gridless in all its aspects. In plan, x and y axes explode to a variety of angles, rays and curves to define floor space. In its elevations, lines break free into a varied assembly of shapes to define a seemingly chaotic space that overtly speaks of dynamism and unexplored experiences.

Grew with the market

Like most design movements and breakthroughs, deconstruction grew with technology. In the late 1950s, plywood, plastics and structural steel were new to the market and prompted experimentations in design. Today, the advancement of the Computer Aided Design Technology and more sophisticated construction systems, continually encourage the sense of adventure—and courage—that one would need to conceptualize and pursue a project of this adversity.

Deconstruction is not easily understood but has crafted some of the most creative, paradigm-shifting spaces. Zaha Hadid has been a proponent of this movement since the 1980s. The American design duo, Morphosis, have also been advocates. Current popular designers like Rem Koolhaas and Daniel Liebeskind use "broken" forms and "undefined" spaces to usher us into a whole new world of design via juxtaposed materials and experimentation with extremes. They didn't just find answers—they also redefined the questions.

A PLAY on diagonals and slices of light. The interior of the San Francisco Federal Building by American designers, Morphosis .

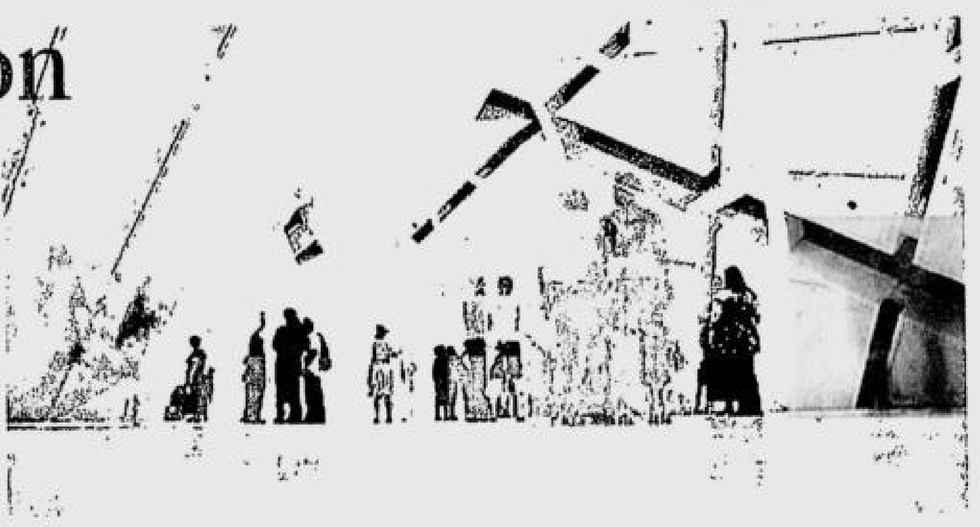
Like them, it is when we incite shock and awe that the extraordinary casts an imprint on the end-user or observer. As designers, we try to carve spaces that create memorable experiences.

Challenges familiar ideas

Irregular surfaces and slicing lines that shift forms have generated changes in our emotions as well. In my personal encounters with deconstruction, I have always felt a disruption in my usual train of thought. As it challenges my familiar ideas about space, order and regularity, it has also stirred deep emotions. When it affects me in a positive way, I know I've encountered great design.

For the creative working on spaces, deconstructivism has largely remained an unexplored arena for experimentation. Unlike the Modernist Movement that has morphed and evolved into a rigid discipline, deconstructivism is in its infancy. As new technology in structural design, material and construction develops, designers and users can grow in this new paradigm of form and space.

Like the seemingly broken, wild and unfinished impressions of deconstruction, perhaps it is time to break ground, loosen up and fragment the defenses that hold back our creativity.



POLISH architect Daniel Liebeskind created this deconstructivist interior at the Royal Ontario Museum.

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Renoir spells grandness of Italian living at Portofino

MASTER REAL ESTATE DEVeloper Brittany Corp., a proud member of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., the country's largest home builder, brings a slice of Old World Italy to Filipinos in the lush landscape and grandiose villas at Portofino, an expansive 300-hectare property along the Las Piñas-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road.

In this sprawling Tuscan-inspired development south of Manila, the space to live the life you desire is gloriously realized in The Masters Collection, an enchanting Portofino enclave that splendidly redefines living large. The newly launched Renoir, one of six model homes is a stellar example.

THE LIVING room is big enough to accommodate intimate gatherings and functions.

Luxury of space

"The Renoir truly embodies the luxury of space. Here, you have generous room to create, move around, entertain and build a beautiful life with your family. When you live in a Renoir, you will realize how liberating and profoundly gratifying extra space can be," said Jing Serrano, Vista Land president and chief executive officer.

Renoir's 323 square-meter floor area on a minimum lot area of 333 sq m easily accommodates three lavishly roomy bedrooms. There are also three toilets and baths for greater convenience and a guest room on the ground floor should you want friends or relatives to sleep over.

Because of Renoir's efficient floor layout, interior designer Marion L. Coscoluella was able to maximize the space to its full potential. This gave way to a larger living room, dining room and kitchen, making them more conducive for entertaining guests or just hanging out with friends and family. There is also a bigger casita that can be easily converted into an extra guest room or a home office.

High arched windows and a high-ceiling cupola along the stairwell—design elements that are unmistakably Coscoluella—bathe the Renoir in natural light, further enhancing its spacious and airy feel.

Grand interpretation

The Masters Collection is truly a grand interpretation of Portofino's opulent Italian theme. Renoir's floor areas range from 330 to 625 sq m. With its vibrant sun-drenched colors, tiled roofs and stone-clad façade, each home evokes Tuscan romance and sophistication. Signature features like the courtyards, cupolas and balconies are also magnified to fit the required scale.

The homes under the Masters Collection can be integrated within the entire Portofino development. For as long as the client has a lot within the Portofino development that meet the required lot range, he or she can choose a Renoir or any of the homes included in the Masters Collection. Residents of Portofino can enjoy the vast array of amenities to complement their enchanted Tuscan lifestyle.

A prime example is The Monte di Portofino clubhouse, a grand display of form and function echoing plush Italian palazzos with amenities like a main ballroom, three function rooms, fully equipped gym, boardroom facilities, al fresco dining area, a luxurious lap pool and kiddie pool. Running through the property is the Portofino River Park which features a mini amphitheater, a scenic jogging trail and lush green spaces perfect for lazy sunny afternoons with friends. There are also basketball and tennis courts installed in the neighboring area.

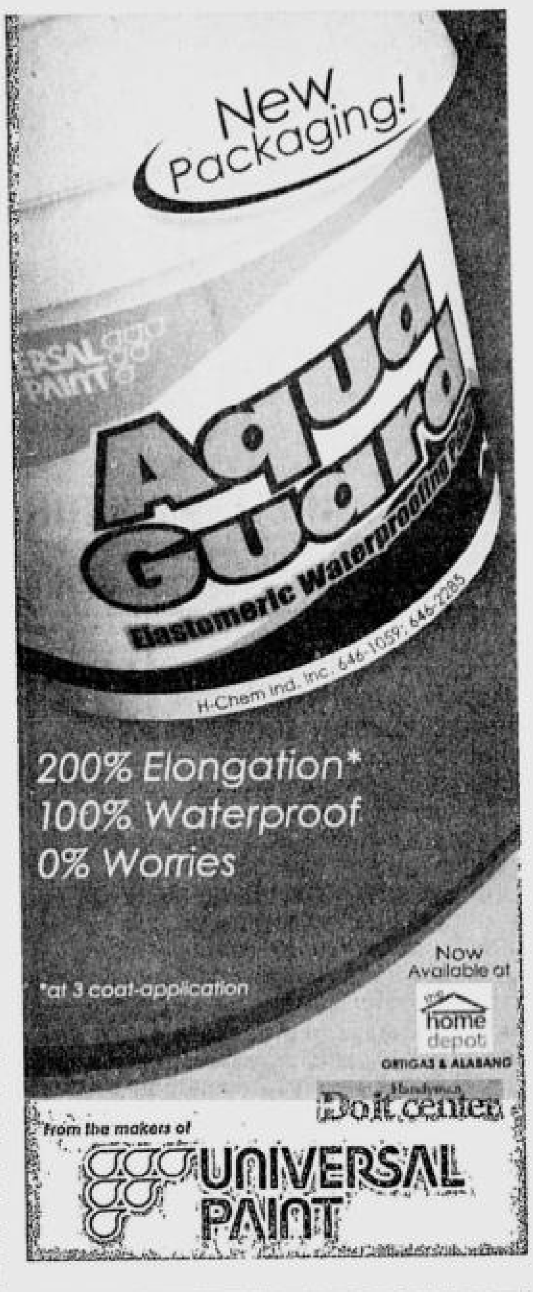
Perfect venue

To complement their stylish urbane sensibilities, homeowners of Renoir and the rest of Portofino can yield to the elegance of soon-to-open Fernbrook Gardens. The 8,000-sq-m Fernbrook Gardens is a perfect venue for weddings and special events. This includes The Grand Conservatory, a 100-foot high dome-like structure with arched bridges, ponds filled with white swans, ducks and hundreds of Japanese kois, exotic plants, birds and stately fern trees. Truly, the breathtaking scene can serve as the perfect backdrop to celebrate life's most important milestones.

Fernbrook Gardens has a porte cochere entry, fully air-conditioned and weather-resistant garden venues, connecting reception venues of four function halls and one main hall overlooking a man-made lake, a basilica-inspired chapel, gondolas on a river that runs through the development, and ample parking space.

Soon to serve Portofino residents is a Petron service station complete with lifestyle restaurants and specialty shops.

Brittany is a maverick real estate developer of innovative and creative lifescapes. Its eclectic and vibrant portfolio includes Brittany Bay, Cross-Winds, Portofino, Georgia Club, The Islands, Mosaic at Greenbelt and Avant at The Fort. With masterplanned developments steeped in character, stylistic and thematic appeal, rich architectural details and excellent craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously reinvents the local real estate landscape.



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Greenfield building dream community in the South

SOUTH OF MANILA, GREENFIELD DEVElopment Corp. has been spearheading the development of new communities geared toward providing urbanites a new haven. One of the country's top property development companies, Greenfield has already successfully transformed the Calabarzon region into a bustling area with its retail and commercial projects. Known as Greenfield City, each project within this prime location was carefully designed to exist in harmony with the natural surroundings.

And now, Greenfield's vision for the South comes full circle with the rise of Pramana. A residential park that promises to provide the comforts of suburban living in an emerging urban setting, Pramana is designed to complete the vision for Greenfield City—as a truly master-planned, self-sufficient, environmentally-sound community.

Situated in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, regarded as one of the country's fastest booming growth centers, Pramana lies right in the middle of the bustling south metro and scenic Tagaytay. This strategic placement gives this emerging urban location the ability to offer abundant lifestyle opportunities of city living amid the splendid, relaxed suburban setting.

A great view

By virtue of its location, Pramana, from the onset, has that one of the top things city dwellers look for in suburban communities: a great view. More than half of Pramana's initial phase of 22 hectares is dedicated to open spaces tree-lined roads, pocket parks and greeneries—all carefully designed to take full advantage of the area's natural beauty.

Opportunities for rest and relaxation abound at Pramana, with its lush landscapes and greenery. A walk in tree-lined roads, through gardens and pocket parks, a quiet moment in gazebos or by ponds can be enjoyed while taking in the naturally spectacular, yet tranquil, setting.

Also because of its choice setting, accessibility is achieved. Going to Makati and Alabang is a short, leisurely ride as Pramana is directly connected to three major road networks: Mamplasan Interchange, Sta. Rosa Exit and the ABI-Greenfield Interchange.

Elegant homes

Imagine leaving one's place of work—be it in Makati or just within Greenfield City—and coming home to Pramana, where one can wash his/her cares away just by enjoying the view. Such a view is made even more enjoyable, thanks to the elegant homes that, because of its Asian-Modern architecture, allow the beauty of outdoor greenery to blend with the spacious indoors.

These beautiful homes epitomize the melding of modern lifestyles with traditional elements—but still allows for residents' personal preferences to come through.

Amenities

Beyond the home, residents can enjoy a wealth of recreational options at the clubhouse. With its basketball courts, swimming pools, playgrounds and other amenities, they can take in precious moments of bonding time with loved ones and friends.

Pramana's beauty, tranquility and accessibility are also matched by topnotch amenities. The gated, fully landscaped community has state-of-the-art security, Wi-Fi connectivity and other modern infrastructure for safety and convenience.

With all these elements, Pramana promises to be a dream community coming true, a place where one can truly live life in perfect harmony.

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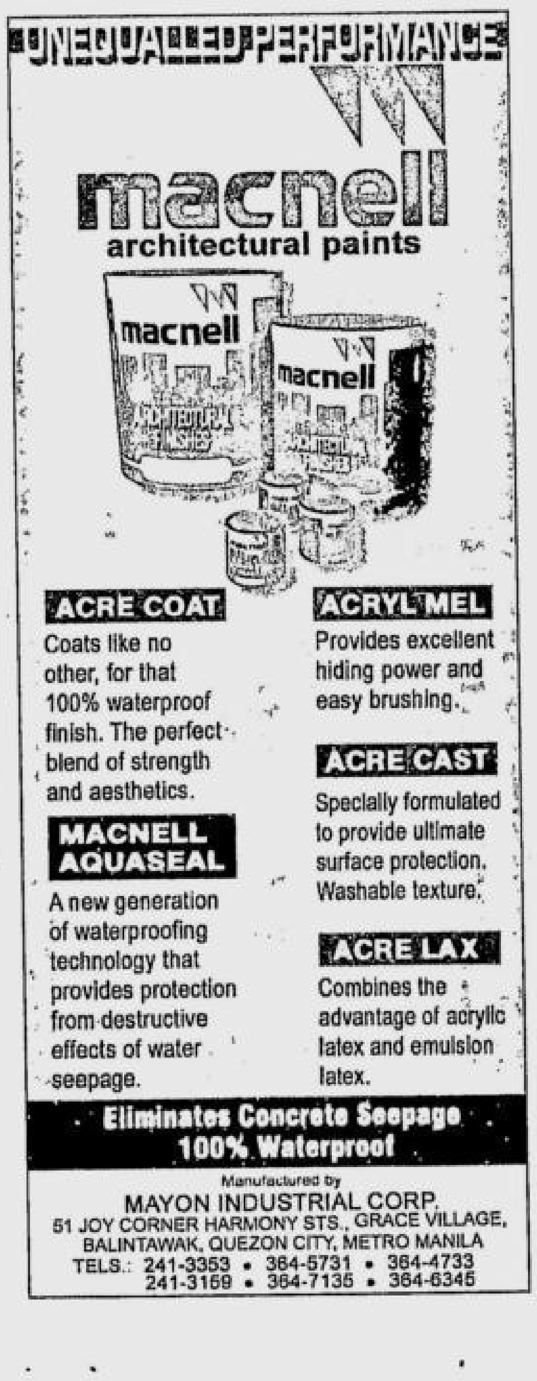

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The business of getting younger-looking goes mainstream

By Charles E. Buban

PLASTIC SURGERY HAS long been viewed as an exclusive—and costly—medical procedure reserved only for the rich and famous and in some cases, patients who have been compromised by disease, accident or disfigurement.

Not anymore.

These days, celebrities, politicians and top executives share seats in waiting rooms of plastic surgeons with young professionals, newly graduates and even college students.

"This is because even the most dramatic and promising cosmetic surgery procedures have become much safer, far less complicated and the fact that clients can now choose from a variety of options to suit their budget," said Dr. Joel Nicdao, head surgeon of McGill Cosmetic Surgery in Astoria Plaza Hotel, Pasig City.

More trust

He also added that there is now more trust on the part of the client considering most of the country's top plastic surgeons are trained by some of the best in the world (in the case of Nicdao, it's the McGill University's Le Centre de Chirurgie Plastique et Esthetique de Montreal in Canada).

"Moreover, the tools and the products that we use here are also the same ones that countries in North America and Europe use so safety and effectiveness is assured," the doctor said.

No wonder specialized clinics like the McGill Cosmetic Surgery (www.mcgillcosmeticsurgery.com) have an increasing number of foreign clients who wanted to avail of a world-class quality treatment but at relatively low cost and with no or shorter waiting time.

In fact, this segment of their clients has helped fuel an industry that in 2006 alone, earned about $200 million (P8.83 billion).

Most effective

While facelift surgery is known to be the most effective and permanent method of refreshing aging faces, it's also the most costly and invasive.

Recently with the many technological advances in nonsurgical facial rejuvenation and skin tightening, the concept of a nonsurgical facelift became a possibility, thus prompting those who are not yet ready for surgical correction to head to a clinic to improve their unwanted facial appearance.

"Aside from the very popular Botox, there are now other injectable fillers that are proving to be equally effective," he said.

He is referring to antiageing therapies that include Hylaform and Aquamid.

Hylaform gel is a new United States Food and Drug Administration-approved filler that when injected just below the surface of the skin would add volume and in the process smoothen unwanted lines and wrinkles.

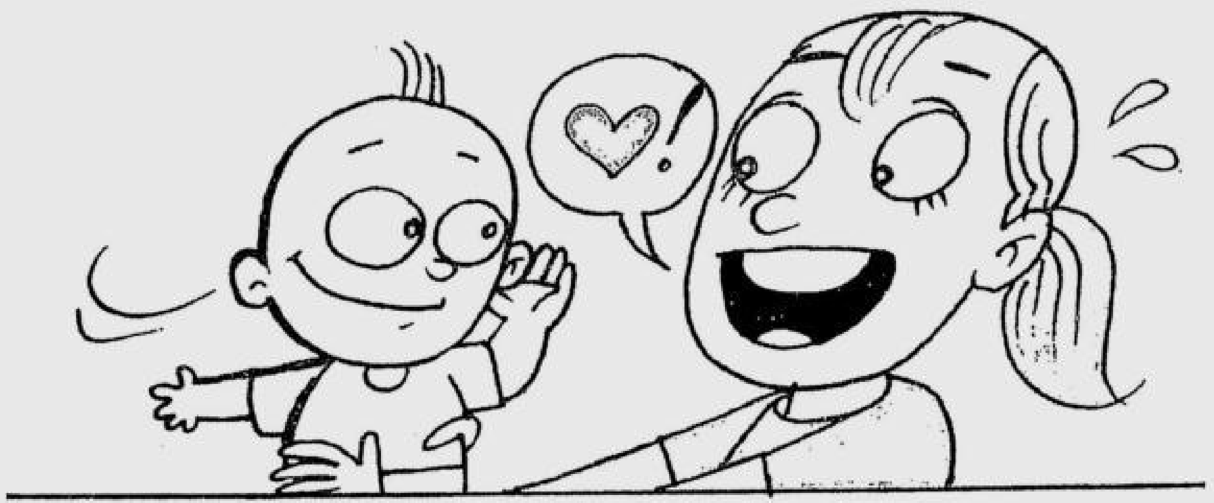
While Hylaform last for several months (and thus, needs to be followed up), Aquamid on the other hand offers a more permanent solution to deep facial lines, lips enhancement, replacement of facial volume lost from age, getting a more prominent cheekbones, chin and nose correction, as well as depressed scars and acne scars.

See an expert

Because most of these procedures are extremely technique-dependent, Nicdao advised that one should see an expert.

"It's true, plastic surgery can be costly and prices can vary depending on what the client would like to improve or alter. But this doesn't mean that those in need should rush out to the cheapest facility they could find. This is dangerous and sometime fatal," he warned.

Nicdao reminded that since it will be your face or body not to mention your hard-earned cash that is at stake, he or she should check the track record and reputation of the clinic, the doctor's credentials and perhaps more importantly, its former clients.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

To hear and awake

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IT'S THE PERFECT SETUP FOR AN emotional scene in any TV, movie or feature film. One morning a parent will walk into the nursery to find his sleeping newborn isn't going to wake up again.

No one knows what causes Sudden Infant Disease Syndrome, but SIDS is estimated to affect 1 in 1,000 newborns worldwide. That statistic means quite a few variations of the scene play out each day somewhere. Newborns between the ages of 2 and 4 months seem more susceptible than others.

It would be more reassuring to say that there are certain signs parents should watch for to avoid SIDS, but the mysterious condition has no detectable symptoms.

Proposed test

Researchers from the states of Washington and Rhode Island recently proposed a test to identify newborns that might be more vulnerable to SIDS than others.

In the July issue of the journal Early Human Development, a team led by anesthesiologist Daniel Rubens of Seattle's Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center suggested that giving newborns a hearing test could mean the difference between a baby waking and staying eternally asleep.

Rubens et al. start with the theory that hair cells in the inner ear play a role in SIDS. Here's what they think happens: As the baby moves through the birth canal, blood pressure is constantly shifting, in part because the umbilical cord is being squeezed at varying intervals. This pressure change could make the veins of the inner ear burst, which could then cause blood to flood the cochlear and vestibular organs. These portions of the inner ear are where the delicate hair cells that process sound waves are located.

More sustainable to SIDS

Damaging the hair cells would cause a hearing problem, but previous studies have also shown that the inner ear also plays a role in regulating breathing. Rubens et al. therefore hypothesized that newborns with this inner ear condition might be more susceptible to SIDS.

They tested this theory by comparing the hearing screen results of 31 newborns known to have died of SIDS against the hearing test results of a control group born in the same area and within a few days of the infants.

Hearing test results showed that the control group of infants all had good results. They also all tended to respond better to sounds on their right than on their left. In contrast, the infants who died of SIDS all responded better to sounds on their left. The data also indicated that these infants had hearing loss in their right ears, and that certain frequencies were affected.

The results suggest that diagnosing an increased risk of SIDS might not be based on what you see, but rather on what you don't hear. Rubens et al. caution that their work is only preliminary. Further studies need to be done to verify their data. If additional test results back up their hypothesis, Rubens et al. hope to have the hearing test become a required exam for all newborns. They also want to modify the exam to include the range of frequencies that identified the SIDS infants during their own studies.

Given the emotional trauma families suffer from SIDS, it's worth keeping an ear out for further updates on Rubens et al.'s work.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Poor body image

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

I USED TO THINK THAT ONLY wealthy women were dissatisfied with their weight. After all, my students who were most conscious about their size tend to come from exclusive schools where looks and figures were prized. In the United States, women in the upper and middle-classes (especially TV and movie stars) were the most prone to anorexia, bulimia and other kinds of eating disorders.

However, a study led by Celeste C. Tanchoco of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) revealed that Pinays aged 25 to 37 years residing in poor urban areas were also not happy with their body image, and they were certainly more critical about themselves than older women.

The study measured dietary intake, hemoglobin levels, obesity using body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, waist-to-hip ratio and social factors like age and annual income. The study was done in Barangay Bagong Silang in Caloocan City.

Happiness and wellness

According to Maria Zorayda A. Torres of FNRI, "body image relates to how a person feels about her appearance based on self-observation and the reaction of others. A positive body image is part of a healthy mental attitude and is important to a person's happiness and wellness. A negative body image, however, contributes to poor self-esteem, feeling of imperfection, and negative eating attitudes and behaviors which predispose a person to eating disorders."

Why do young Filipino women have a poor body image? They desire to be thin, especially during adolescence. Society does not view obese people kindly, and sometimes there is even discrimination among children in schools and adults in workplaces.

Not surprisingly, the study also showed that women with higher income were unhappier about their bodies than those with lower incomes. Those with higher BMIs and higher hemoglobin levels were also more dissatisfied than their slimmer counterparts. But what worries me most is that those with higher nutrient intakes were also unhappier. This might lead them to take drastic measures, such as fasting or extreme diets, to become thin.

Torres concludes, "The researchers recognize the need to further analyze other causes, including the influence of physical activity, media, and health practices. Since the findings are limited to the C, D and E socio-economic classes, they also recommend that a similar study be done among the A and B classes and among the youth."

Vulnerable poor

Ironically, according to another study, the 2003 Food Consumption Survey, households with the lowest income have the least per capita food intake per day, half of which come from cereals and starchy roots, the cheapest items to fit their budgets. In the highest income group, the consumption of cereal declines, but there was an increased intake of high-priced items like processed meats, milk and dairy products, bread, soft drinks, cookies and pastries.

The survey showed that people in the lowest income group have inadequate intake of all nutrients (except niacin). Those in the highest income group have adequate intake of energy, protein, vitamin A, thiamin and niacin.

Mildred O. Guirindola of the FNRI says, "The study confirmed that economic factors determine food intake and nutrition. Vulnerable to undernutrition, the poor are those in the lowest income group and without permanent income, such as traders and related workers and farmers, forestry workers and fishermen."

For more information on these studies, call Mario V. Capanzana, FNRI director, at 837-2071 local 2287, or e-mail at mar_v_c@yahoo.com. You can access the FNRI website at www.fnri.dost.gov.ph.

Dr. Conrado Dayrit: academician, clinician, researcher, a friend

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

DR. CONRADO DAYRIT, ONE OF THE pillars of Philippine cardiology, breathed life into the research and clinical undertakings of many of his students with his valuable insights and fatherly concern. Last week, at the age of 88, he breathed his last, leaving behind a legacy of lifelong commitment and dedication to not only treating patients but also healing them and finding new ways to improve their condition.

Research was a passion which paralleled his enthusiasm for clinical practice. He is recognized as the father of virgin coconut oil (VCO). He dedicated more than half of his life discovering its many health benefits and convincing one and all, skeptics and half-believers, about how it can preserve health and save lives even those of HIV-AIDS patients.

Dr. Dayrit was a professor emeritus of Pharmacology at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, and was the author of over 200 scientific papers in local and international journals. He was respected by his peers both here and abroad.

Up to the time that he had to be confined to bed because of his illness two months ago, he was still a familiar figure making rounds at the Victor Potenciano Medical Center, where he remained as medical director up to his death. With his ever cheerful disposition which didn't wane one bit since the first day I met him, he had this uncanny ability to make everyone feel that there is never a bad day. There can only be bad ways of looking at things.

Consoler

I remember when I was a medical resident in training at the Philippine General Hospital, he would be among the first ones who would console me when I got lambasted by the other consultants during medical conferences. "Cheer up," he told me as he pat my shoulder after a conference. "Your patient survived his heart attack and no medical journal in the world can refute you in how you managed him." I managed to smile, much like that from a wounded soldier given an uplifting boost by his emperor.

As trainees, we would rotate under different consultants, and when I was under him, he noted during one of his rounds that I was too aggressive and unconventional in managing a young patient with complicated hypertension. Instead of embarrassing me in front of the other residents, interns and the patient, he pulled me to one side of Ward 5 of the old PGH and explained to me the rationale of sticking to conventional guidelines of treatment. He saved me from embarrassment, and fortunately the patient also survived despite my unconventional treatment.

Dr. Dayrit was one of the six founders of the Philippine Heart Association, the national organization for heart specialists and one of the oldest and most prestigious medical organizations in the country. He served as its president from 1957 to 1958. His term was part of the golden decade when the Filipino cardiologists were considered the best in Asia and among the best in the world.

Important advice

I also had the rare privilege to lead the PHA in 1993-1994. Being one of the youngest presidents it ever had, it didn't help any that the association had a lot of internal and external problems during my term. And so during the business meeting of our national convention, it was expected to have its fair share of debate and argumentation. Dr. Dayrit put his hands across my shoulder shortly before the meeting, and told me: "You do what you have to do. You are our president."

The ensuing exchanges during the meeting was heated and almost reached parliamentary tumult. Fortunately, my more senior colleagues, deferred—perhaps not necessarily to my person—but to my position as president, as I gave everyone a fair chance to be heard and penalized a few whom I deemed out of order.

I don't remember even thanking him for that single important advice he gave me before that meeting: To do what I had to do and to have the boldness and confidence to do it.

In his death bed, Dr. Dayrit followed this same advice he gave me before that crucial business meeting. He did what he felt he must do and had the boldness and spiritual confidence to do it. With a tube connecting him to a mechanical respirator which breathed for him, he signaled to son Manolet (former Health Secretary Manolet Dayrit) to take the tube out, and let him go in peace. With dignity.

Dr. Dayrit may have breathed his last. But he will continue to breathe life to the many undertakings he has inspired and the many advocacies he has fought for.

The race to control the Earth from the Moon

By Art Villasanta
Contributor

THE PERFECT ENERGY source does indeed exist.

It's an energy source so safe that fusion plants using it can be built inside cities to provide electricity. It emits hardly any deadly radiation.

It's so efficient as a power source that just one million metric tons of this material will produce more than 10 times the energy available from mining all the fossil fuels on Earth—less the pollution.

This perfect energy source is a gas called Helium-3 (He3). There's enough of this material available to meet the Earth's entire energy needs for a millennium.

There's only one problem. It's found only on the Moon.

And it's fueling the Second Moon Race that pits the United States against a slew of competitors, the most notable of which is China. Other countries in the running are India, Russia and, surprisingly, Nigeria.

China vs the US

China is the US' main competitor in this Second Moon Race that appears to be fueled by those old geopolitical objectives called money and power.

China is keen on mining He3 and other strategic moon resources such as water ice and titanium over the next 50 years.

Its Moon program, the "Chang'e Lunar Exploration Program (CLEP)," is essentially a grab for the economic and military power only a lock on the Moon's resources can provide.

China aims to become the Moon's first superpower. The United States' moribund space program, however, seemed content to cling to the "Star Trek" mantra of boldly going where no man has gone before.

That is, until President George Bush in 2004 announced a "New Course" for space exploration that urges the United States to gain a new foothold on the Moon, and to prepare for new journeys to other worlds, specifically Mars.

The goal of the United States' reenergized space program is to land Americans on the Moon before 2020.

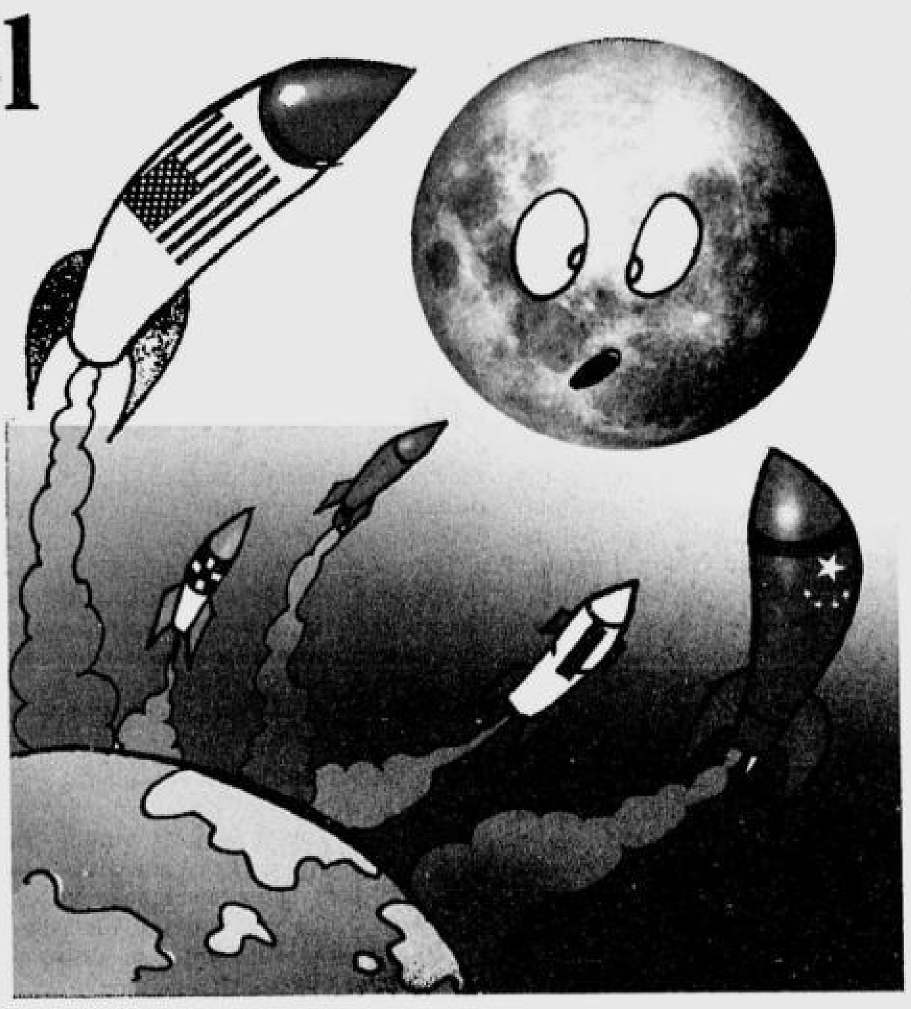
But with Bush and his Republicans on the way out in 2008, it remains a question whether the Democrats share the Republican's view of space as terrain to be conquered.

In China's crosshairs

China, however, has the Moon firmly in its sights and appears intent on pulling out all the stops to secure this high ground in the coming struggle for the Moon's mineral wealth.

A telling indicator of China's focus on the Moon as a strategic resource is the man placed in charge of CLEP. That man is Ouyang Ziyuan, a cosmochemist and geochemist and a prominent expert in geological research and extraterrestrial materials.

Unsurprisingly, he's a leading advocate of exploiting the Moon's resources such as He3, and the leading proponent of Chinese-manned missions to the Moon and Mars.



China aims to build permanent, manned bases on the Moon, a vital first step in exploiting lunar resources. China expects to land on the moon by about 2024.

"The moon has become the focal point wherein future aerospace powers contend for strategic resources," said Luan Enjie, then vice minister of the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, in 2003.

Controlling levers of power

He3 is among those strategic resources. Some scientists see He3 as "the perfect energy source."

Practically no natural deposits of He3 exist on Earth, however, but more than one million tons of He3 are believed to be found on the Moon. That's enough energy to power the world for thousands of years, estimate some scientists.

The few hundred pounds of He3 that do exist on Earth are mostly byproducts of nuclear weapons maintenance. Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin found He3 on the Moon in 1969.

He3 is easily found in the lunar "regolith" or lunar soil, and is extracted by heating the soil to 600 degrees Centigrade. About half the Moon's supplies of He3 are in the lunar "marias" or seas.

He3 fusion energy is extremely potent, nonpolluting and produces almost no radioactive by-products, as does the conventional nuclear technology used to produce electricity. It is, therefore, an ideal power source for spacecraft on long, interstellar trips.

Guam couple finds best treatment in RP

CAREPLUS

Christine F. Liwanag

SHE SOUGHT TREATMENT FROM various US hospitals but found the best solution to her medical problem in the Philippines.

"I thank God and St. Luke's Medical Center. Instead of being paralyzed for life, I shall be able to walk again in a couple of days," said 71-year-old Gloria B. Nelson, while resting in her hospital bed.

Successful operation

The current commissioner of the Consolidated Commission on Utilities and former director of Education of Guam had successfully undergone lower lumbar spine surgery performed by noted orthopedic surgeon Mario Ver. For several years, Mrs. Nelson suffered from a degenerative spine condition (spondylolisthesis) that caused excruciating back pain, numbness and tingling sensation in her hips and legs. The symptoms worsened over time, aggravated by Mrs. Nelson's constant walking and standing for prolonged periods of time.

"When I was admitted to St. Luke's, my face was bumpy all over, my left eye was almost closed, and the pain was unbearable. Look at me now," a smiling Mrs. Nelson said.

Since 2000, Mrs. Nelson had been consulting doctors from hospitals in Los Angeles, Hawaii and Guam about her spine condition. However, doctors decided against surgery because her condition was "delicate and risky." One of her doctors in Hawaii who had the same condition advised her to "better leave it untouched" and to "learn to live with the pain."

God's messenger

A friend, "God's messenger" as Mrs. Nelson put it, recommended St. Luke's. "My husband and I wasted no time and immediately booked a flight to the Philippines."

Because of her advanced age, Mrs. Nelson underwent pre-surgery X-ray and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) at St. Luke's to ensure her safety and eligibility for the operation. The imaging procedures revealed that Mrs. Nelson's condition had deteriorated to the point that she was at serious risk of being paralyzed.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, Dr. Ver and his team of nine specialists performed the highly delicate lower lumbar spine surgery on Mrs. Nelson. "The smallest deflection would have made the operation a total disaster. Thus, we used a special surgical microscope, spinal cord monitoring, and cutting-edge nerve and muscle conduction tests to ensure surgical precision," Dr. Ver explained.

The operation was a complete success.

Different kind of discipline

"St. Luke's and its doctors are fantastic. The nurses and staff exude a different kind of discipline not found anywhere else. The people here are warm and treat you like family. The Philippines is fortunate to have St. Luke's and its wonderful doctors and staff," Mrs. Nelson said. "Thank you very much, Dr. Ver, for your excellent surgical skills and genuine compassion."

Former Sen. Ted Nelson shares his wife's sentiments. "We've been to hospitals in Guam, Hawaii and the continental United States, but St. Luke's is incomparable."

As soon as they got back to Guam, the couple hosted a thanksgiving potluck party and shared the good news to their family, friends and community about St. Luke's and the Philippines.

* * *

For feedback, please e-mail the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau at inquire@htoib.com.

MRS. Gloria Nelson and Dr. Mario Ver

St. Luke's Medical Center marks 104th year

TO CELEBRATE THE 104TH ANniversary of St. Luke's Medical Center, the hospital administration has lined up three symposiums during the weeklong celebration, which starts with a flag-raising ceremony on Monday.

Tagged "Quality Patient Care and Patient Safety: From Good to Great—Year 4," St. Luke's board of trustees chair Robert F. Kuan and president and CEO Jose F. G. Ledesma will lead the flag-raising ceremony which will be held on the grounds of St. Luke's Medical Center.

This will be followed by the opening of the quality exhibits, which will be led by Dr. Alejandro Dizon, St. Luke's chief quality officer, along the second floor hallway of the main hospital building. The exhibit will showcase the performance improvement posters of the various divisions.

First symposium

The first of the three symposiums will also be held on Monday at the Auditorium 1 of the Cathedral Heights Building Complex. Titled "Educating the Educators," the symposium is targeted to medical associates who are in charge of the hospital's residency training program.

"This will be an opportune time for us to look closely into our residency training programs considering that we are preparing for the needs of St. Luke's Bonifacio Global City which will be operational by October 2009," said Dr. Joven Cuanang, St. Luke's senior vice president for medical affairs and medical director and the chair of the organizing committee for the 104th anniversary celebrations.

Scheduled to speak during the two-day symposium are Dr. Anthony Arnold, chief of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Division and Residency Program director of the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and Dr. Andrew Lee, professor of the Departments of Ophthalmology, Neurology and Neurosurgery of the University of Iowa Hospital & Clinics.

Neuro-ophthalmology

Doctors Arnold and Lee are also scheduled to speak during the neuro-ophthalmology symposium titled "Unraveling Neurologic Mysteries," also at Auditorium 1. This will be held on Wednesday.

Later that evening, St. Luke's will be hosting the annual St. Luke's Doctors' Night at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria. The hospital will recognize St. Luke's top doctors, the best teachers as well as those who have given prestige to the hospital by speaking in international conferences. Presidents of various professional groups and chairpersons of specialty groups will also be honored.

Recognition day

Thursday will see the consecration of St. Luke's board of trustees headed by its chair Mr. Kuan. There will be a Mass at the second floor conference room of the main hospital building. A Recognition Day program will follow this where exemplary and loyal employees will be recognized.

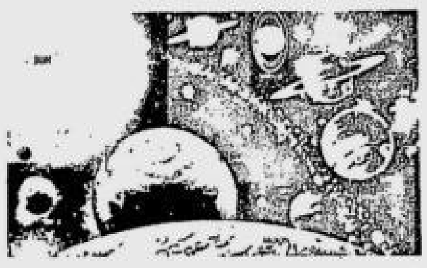
The blessing of the medical library and blessing and inauguration of the Angelo King Auditorium at the St. Luke's College of Medicine-William H. Quasha Memorial will kick off the festivities on Friday.

In the afternoon, the Symposium on International Patient Safety Goals, the third symposium of the anniversary celebration, will be held at the second floor conference room. The awarding of the Quality Week winners will follow the symposium. Rounding off the day's activities is the Bingo Night, which will be held at the St. Luke's College of Medicine-William H. Quasha Memorial.

The culminating activity of anniversary week is the Family Day, which will be held at the gymnasium of the Trinity University of Asia. A day of fun-filled activities has been scheduled for St. Luke's employees and their family.

KIDS QUIZ

By Emman Cena



Which planet are you from?

LAST YEAR, ASTRONOMERS around the world voted to strip Pluto of its planet status, bringing the number of planetary bodies down to eight. Pluto is now considered a "dwarf planet." So, the solar system now consists of the sun, the eight planets and their moons, asteroids, comets and meteors among others.

Did you know that some of the planets do not have moons of their own while some have more than 10? Can you name them all? A bit hard, I know. So let me just give you an easier test. Unleash that astronomer in you!

Check your knowledge by matching the planet on the left with the number of moon/s it has on the right.

Planets	No. of moons
1. Mercury	a) 2
2. Venus	b) 0
3. Earth	c) 18
4. Mars	d) 8
5. Jupiter	e) 1
6. Saturn	f) 0
7. Uranus	g) 5
8. Neptune	h) 16
	i) 21

Bonus question: Which planet has a moon named Titan, and is the second largest in the solar system?

ANSWERS: 1-f/b, 2-b/f, 3-e, 4-a, 5-h, 6-c, 7-i, 8-d (Bonus question answer: SATURN)

DBS surgery gives new life to Parkinson's disease patient

JASMIN SAT QUIETLY NEAR HER husband inside the lobby of the Philippine Movement Disorder Surgery Center in San Juan. In two days, she was due for Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery, a brain operation on which she had pinned all her hopes and dreams for a normal life.

Nineteen years ago, Jasmin was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease which is characterized by tremors, rigidity and slowness of movement. She was just over 30 years old and a top level executive in a leading dairy corporation. The change was devastating.

Very depressed

"I was very depressed when I found out that I have Parkinson's disease. I cannot even dress myself and had to be accompanied even when going to the bathroom," Jasmin confided.

"I also got tired easily and cannot participate in normal activities with my family."

According to Jasmin, the first thing she noticed was stiffness in her extremities, which she initially attributed to exhaustion and rheumatism. Later, she developed tremor in her hands and upon consulting a doctor was told that she has Parkinson's disease.

Brain lesioning

"I wanted to have DBS surgery way back in 1998 but there was a very long patient waiting list in France. We then went to the United States but at that time DBS was not yet available and I instead underwent a brain lesioning procedure called pallidotomy," she said.

During pallidotomy, the neurosurgeon uses a long delicate probe to destroy a tiny part of the brain located deep in the cerebral hemisphere called the "globus pallidus internus."

Life was normal for Jasmin for about a year after the pallidotomy. However, the tremors and rigidity eventually returned.

DBS surgery in RP

Almost nine years after her first surgery, she learned from her sister, a neurologist, that a team of Filipino doctors will be conducting DBS surgery here in the Philippines.

This was to be done by a team of Filipino doctors from the Philippine Movement (PhilMove) Disorder Surgery Center in collaboration with a movement disorder surgery team from the University of Florida. The University of Florida team consisting of four doctors decided to go to the Philippines to share their expertise and help propagate the technology of DBS surgery in the treatment of long standing Parkinson's disease.

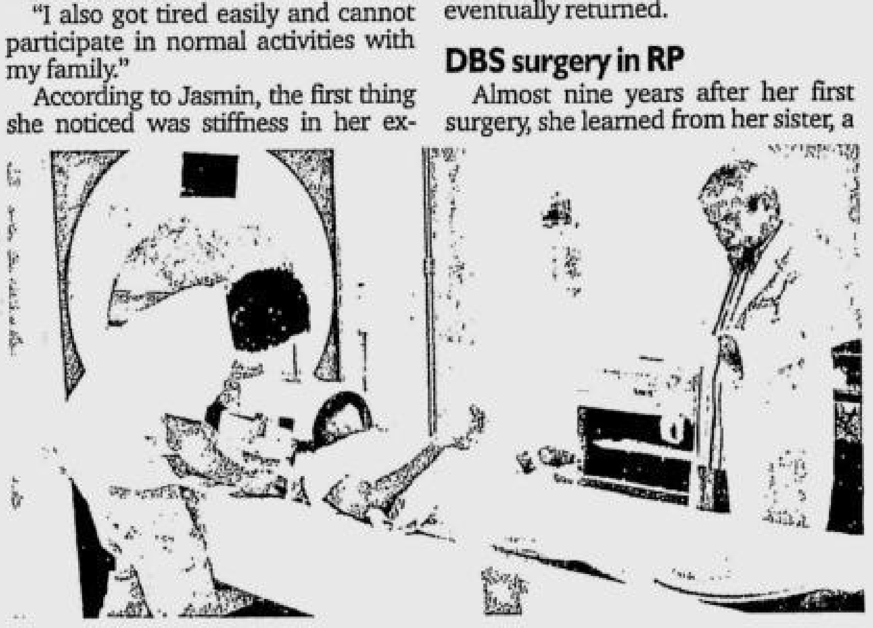
Jasmin immediately grabbed the opportunity and went to the PhilMove Surgery Center at Cardinal Santos Medical Center to have her DBS surgery.

As early as one month after her DBS surgery, Jasmin was very happy with the results. Her motor symptoms improved by 60 percent and her medication dose was reduced.

DBS surgery involves the implantation of an electrode (thin flexible wire) into a small region deep into the brain. The electrode is connected to a pulse generator (pace maker) that is embedded underneath the skin of the chest. The pulse generator contains a battery that generates a high frequency electrical current which is delivered to the target area in the brain.

The process alleviates the patient's symptoms such as tremors, rigidity, slowness of movement or abnormal movements.

Dr. Jose Aguilar, a neurosurgeon of the PhilMove Surgery Center said that DBS surgery could improve the symptoms and restore the function in up to 90 percent of patients with advanced Parkinson's disease.



DEEP Brain Stimulation surgery

Gov't irons out plan to arrest rising oil prices

Tariff on oil products to be reduced when fuel prices reach critical levels

By Abigail L. Ho

AN EFFORT TO MITIGATE THE IMpact of escalating world oil prices on local pump prices—by reducing the tariff on fuel products—is almost complete, with only a few details still being ironed out.

According to an industry source, what is now being determined are the new "trigger points" for the implementation of the tariff reduction.

These trigger points represent the prices of oil in the international market at which the tariff level will be lowered from the existing 3 percent by increments of 1 percentage point.

"The draft implementing rules and regulations is basically complete," the source said. "What the economic managers are still trying to work out is how much the trigger amounts should be. The scheme should be revenue-neutral to the government, so they're trying to find a way to balance things, considering how strong the peso is against the dollar."

The source further explained that rising world oil prices were actually beneficial to the government, in the sense that it would collect more from the oil firms in terms of taxes.

However, the social impact would be great, as oil firms would just pass on the added burden to consumers, the source said.

This is why, as a mitigating measure, the country's economic managers are again working on a tariff-reduction scheme similar to what was implemented from June to November last year to arrest the rise in local pump prices, the source added.

EO 527 provides that the tariff on crude and refined petroleum products will be reduced by 1-percentage-point increments when regional prices hit certain "trigger" amounts.

Under the implementing rules of the EO, the mandated 3-percent tariff will go down to 2 percent if the regional benchmark Dubai crude hits $66 a barrel. A similar cut will be made when diesel, based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for finished products, reaches $88 a barrel.

These price levels should be sustained for two weeks to merit a tariff reduction.

The next trigger points, which will bring the tariff to 1 percent, are $75 a barrel for Dubai crude and still $88 a barrel for MOPS-based diesel.

The import tariff will be scrapped altogether if Dubai crude hits $85 a barrel and MOPS-based diesel, $88 a barrel.

Ramon Villavicencio, chair and chief executive of independent oil firm Flying V, said that while oil firms still had to recover between 50 centavos and P1 a liter for gasoline, diesel and kerosene, more pump price increases could be averted if the government implements the tariff-reduction scheme.

"We'll support that move of the government, should they push through with it," Villavicencio said.

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Megaworld sinks P1.5B in Iloilo venture

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Megaworld Corp. will pour an initial investment of P1.5 billion into its newly acquired 54-hectare property, where the old Iloilo airport used to stand.

Megaworld, which acquired the property in Mandurriao District for P1.2 billion, plans to build a business park here.

"This is our first major investment outside of Manila," said Kingson Sian of Megaworld Corp. during yesterday's turnover ceremony at the Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center. "This shows how much we are bullish and committed to Iloilo."

Sian said the Iloilo site comprised half the land area of Megaworld's other properties.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas said Megaworld's project is the single biggest investment in Iloilo City.

"This is a historic turnover," said Treñas. "We will build a new city within a city."

Megaworld is known for developing high-end properties including residential and commercial projects. Among its biggest projects are the Empire East Land Holdings Inc. and Empire East Properties Inc.

It was the only firm among prospective buyers that submitted a bid that met the P1.2-billion minimum price set by the government for the property.

Robinson's Lands had submitted a bid of P1.09 billion; Empire East, P701 million and SM Prime, P435.79 million.

Megaworld plans to put up residential units; a hotel and convention center; commercial and retail stores; recreation centers and skills development facilities.

Sian said they are optimistic that Iloilo would become among the world's top business process outsourcing centers.

Employment in call centers are expected to increase from the 200,000 workers in 2006 to a million by 2010, said Sian.

Key to the investment is the manpower supply that is expected to be fulfilled by the many colleges and universities in the city.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who attended the turnover rites, said the Megaworld investment "shows that there is a lot of potential in Iloilo."

DA unit scours Negros for coco plantations

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Biofuels Feedstock Group is reportedly eyeing property in Negros that may be planted to coconut.

According to the United Coconut Association of the Philippines, 93,659 hectares of vast unused or idle property on the island may be ideal for coconut plantations.

Of the total, 59,666 hectares are in Negros Occidental, while the remaining 33,993 hectares are in Negros Oriental.

The Biofuels Feedstock Group said the areas suitable for coconut could also be used for the propagation of oil palm.

Both coconut oil and palm oil are used as feedstock for biodiesel production, the group added.

Biodiesel produced from coconuts is called coco methyl ester or CME.

Based on the group's conversion rates, if all these idle lands would be planted to coconut, around 95,500 metric tons of copra would be produced for crushing into coconut oil feedstock.

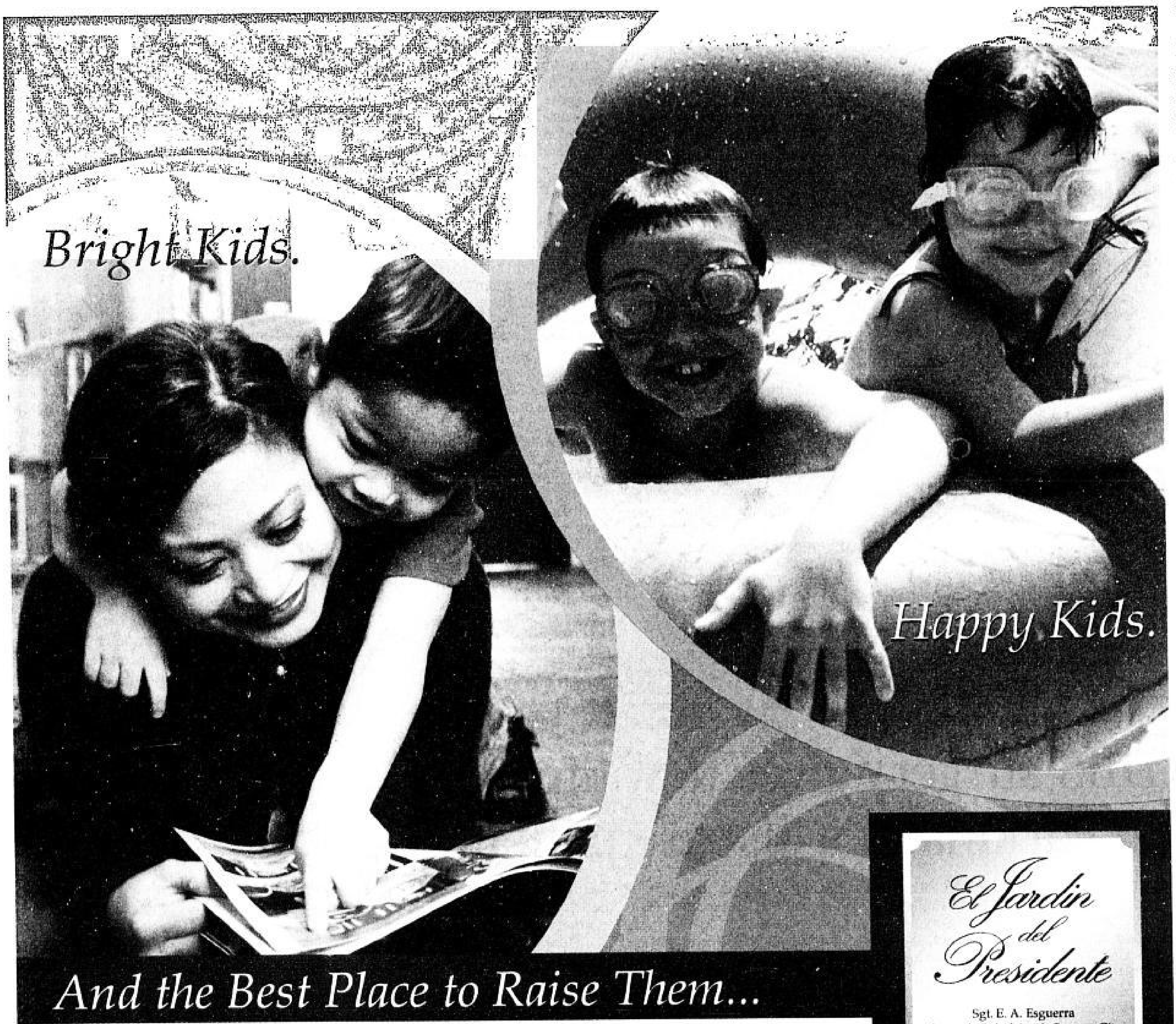
Also, if the group's plan to use these idle areas pushes through, the additional property could help augment the country's coconut production, which is expected to post a decline this year, as a result of the damage wrought by supertyphoons in the second semester of 2006.

Some 365,000 hectares of coconut plantations in Bicol were wiped out by typhoons Milenyo, Reming and Senyang.

The Philippine Coconut Authority sees a 12-percent decline in coconut production to 2.1 million metric tons from last year's 2.47 million metric tons.

Meanwhile, a 27-percent decline in coconut oil exports is also expected for 2007.

In the first eight months of the year, exports of major coconut products had slipped by 28.4 percent to 1.01 million MT in copra terms, down from 1.41 million MT recorded in the same period last year.



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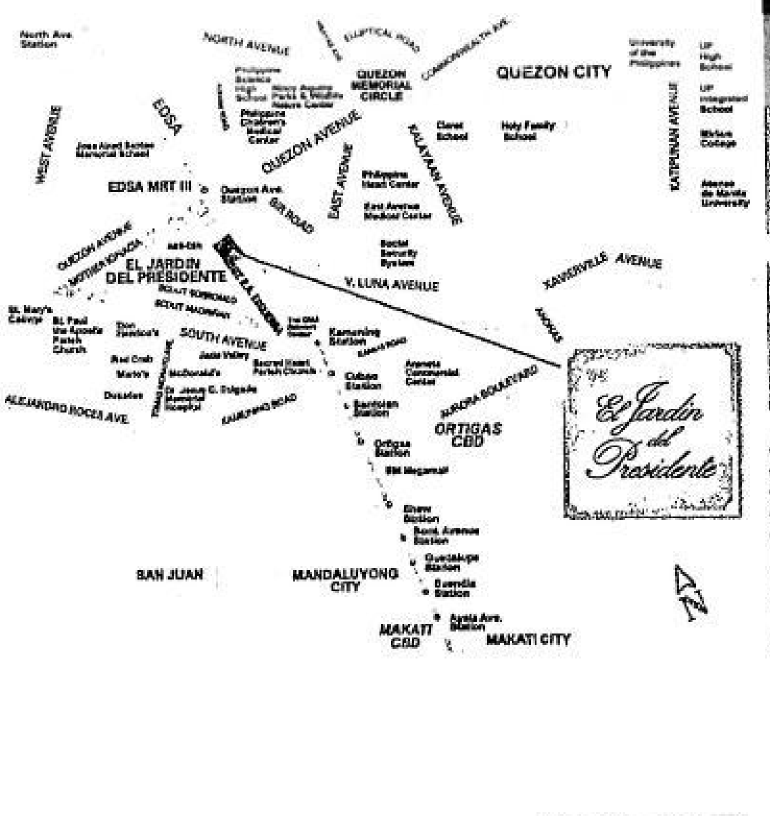

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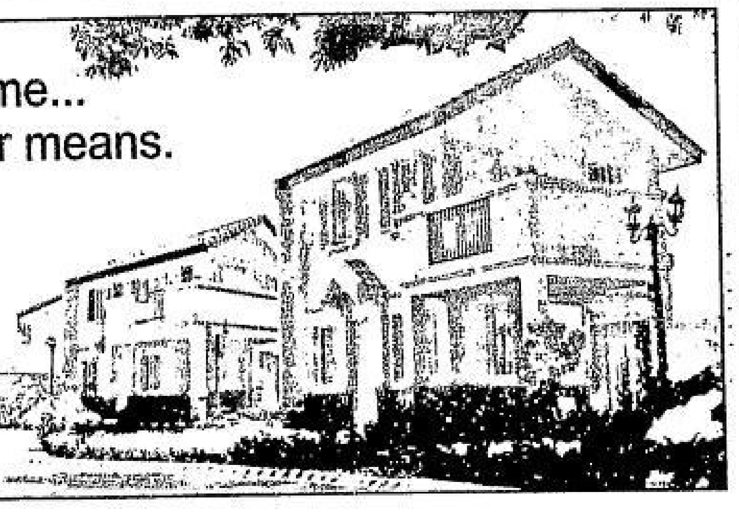


READ *BITUIN* THE LINES. Claire Danes traveling light

STAR-CROSSED BLUBBERS. Sienna Miller and Charlie Cox

FREQUENT FLYER FILMS

Stardust gets in your eyes

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

'ARE WE HUMAN BECAUSE WE look at the stars, or do we look at the stars because we are human?' That's the mobius-strip question that loops you in at the start of the supercharged fairy tale "Stardust," the film based on the best-selling novel of *pareng* Neil Gaiman. Yet beyond that navel-gazing query, the more thought-provoking question is, do the stars look back down at us?

From that vantage point, perhaps those stars see more of our world than we know. Perhaps they would tell us just how tiny we are, in comparison to the universe whose vastness we can only attempt to fathom. Recalling a line from Alain de Botton's The Art of Travel, "… to think that all along, hidden from our sight, our lives were this small: The world we live in but almost never see; the way we must appear to the hawk and to the gods." Maybe from that distance we'd see, like the stars peering down at us, that there are no lines drawn to separate us from each other. The only borders and walls that exist are constructed by our own imaginations and fears.

Star, not so bright

The wall in "Stardust" takes on a significant part as the stone perimeter around the English town of, well, Wall. There is a small gap in the wall guarded by an aging sentinel. The townsfolk are forbidden to pass through the opening, and so they remain isolated from the outside world. One day, a curious Dunstan Thorn manages to sidestep the octogenarian guard and passes through the gap, which is actually a portal to the magical kingdom of Faerie. He finds his way to an enchanted market, where he meets a lady who leaves him spellbound with a kiss. Nine months later, back in the town of Wall, Dunstan finds a basket with his baby son Tristan.

Tristan Thorn (Charlie Cox) grows up to be a pleasant but rather awkward young man. He gets props for chivalry in my book though, for wining and wooing the town beauty Victoria (Sienna Miller) with an outdoor champagne picnic (I'll be damned, it even looked like Moët Chandon!) To prove his love for her, Tristan promises to retrieve a fallen star they had seen in the distance. And so, in the name of love, he ventures beyond the wall in search for the star.

Yet this star was no lump of rock, as the limitations of reality would have obviously defined it. Beyond Wall, the fallen star is personified as a svelte, silvery celestial being named Yvaine (Claire Danes). Make that a celestial being with a really bad case of PMS. Then again, you'd be cranky too if you were knocked off the sky by a giant ruby that was hurled to the heavens by the dying King of Stormhold (Peter o'Toole) to challenge his sons for the throne.

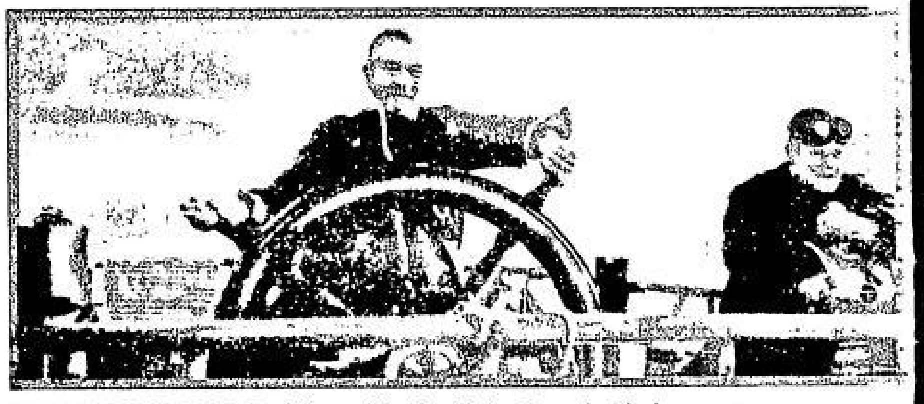
Other conniving, murderous characters are after the same star. Among them, a fabulous wicked witch Lamia (Michelle Pfeiffer), who needs the heart of the star to regain her youthful appearance (see, these were the days way before Botox), and the remaining prince of Stormhold, Septimus (Mark Strong), who desires the ruby to forge his title as the next ruler of his kingdom.

Spoiler alert

Okay, so "Stardust" has its share of flaws—Claire Danes seemed to be channeling her angst-ridden "My So-Called Life" character, except with an English accent. Plus there were some cringe-inducing lines ("What do stars do? Shine!" *Ngerr.*) Still, I really enjoyed "Stardust" for its nonstop adventurous romp that rekindled the wonder of fairy tales sans the "Shrek" formula of inserting fragments of modern pop culture that douse any suspension of disbelief.

And then there's Robert de Niro, sprinkled with a rather fair share of fairy dust. Even if I'm still not 100% certain whether this was a good gamble, to cast De Niro as the feared Captain Shakespeare and closeted drag queen, he was still a hoot in a hot pink feath-

A star falls, and a lovesick chap crosses the line



FAIRY IN THE TALE. De Niro as "badass" sky Captain Shakespeare

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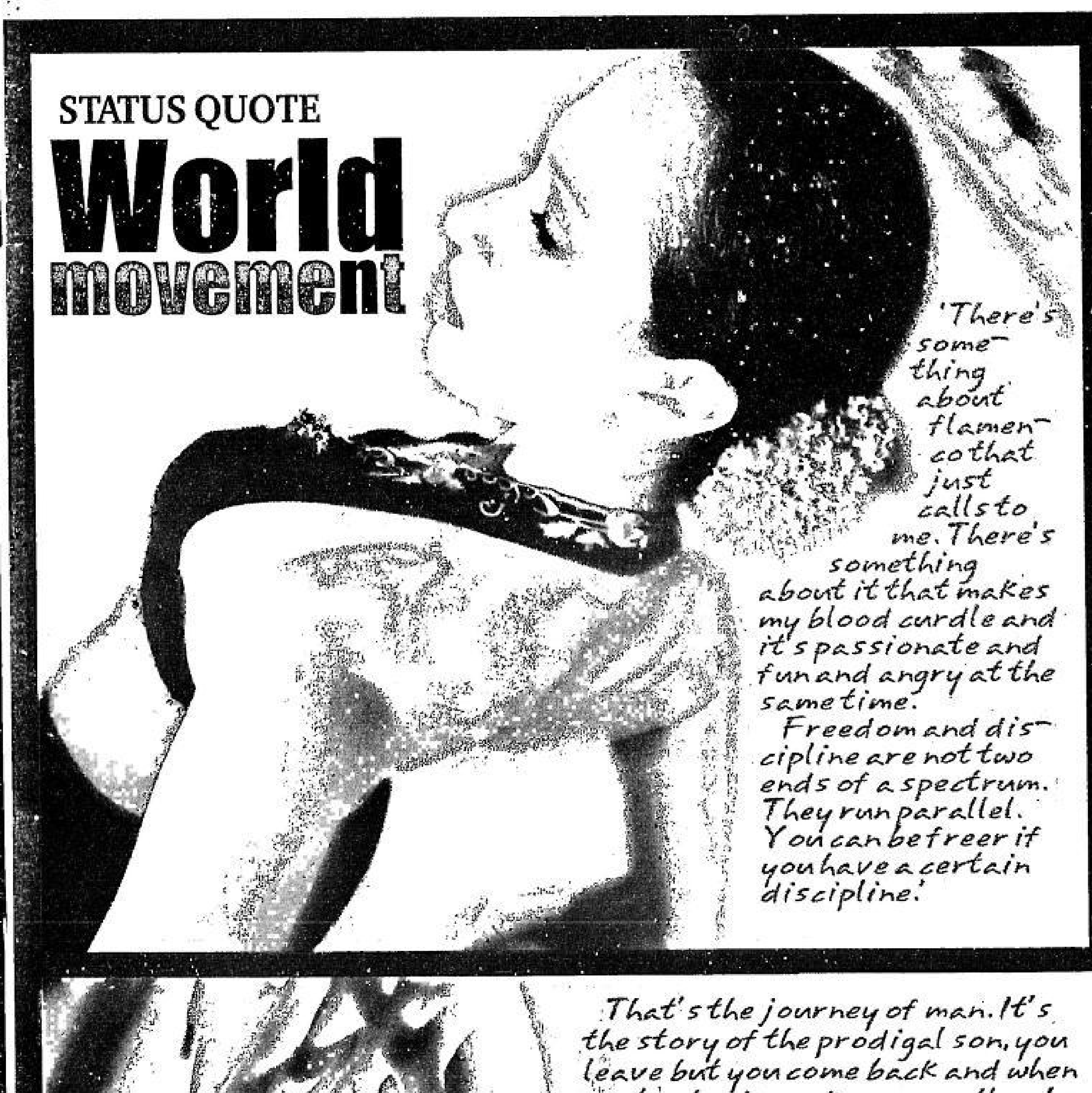
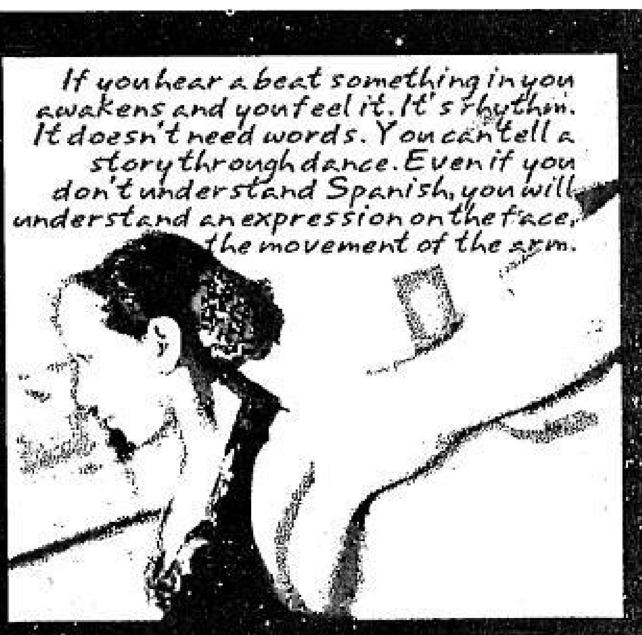
STATUS QUOTE

World movement

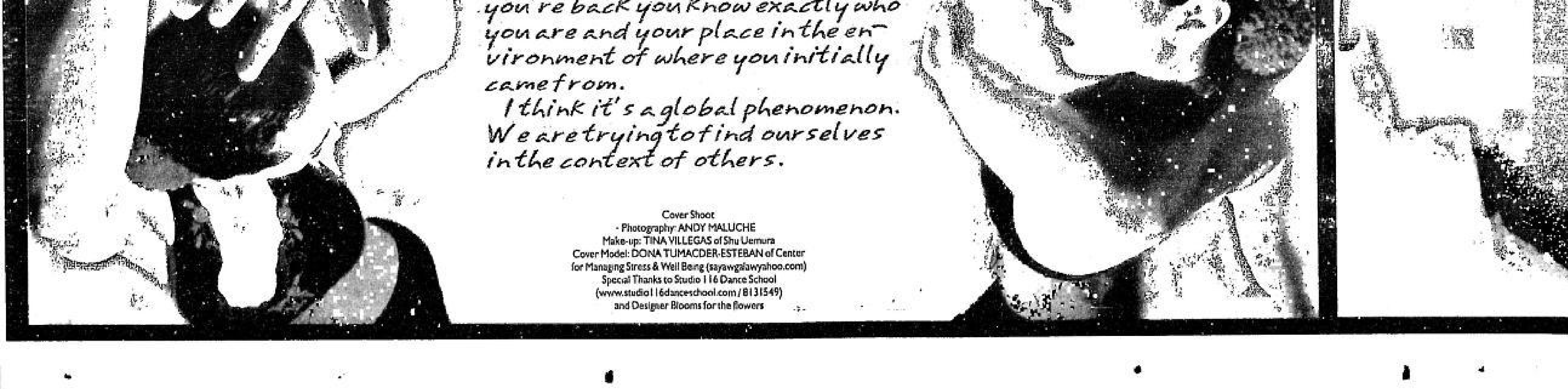


'There's something about flamenco that just calls to me. There's something about it that makes my blood curdle and it's passionate and fun and angry at the same time.

Freedom and discipline are not two ends of a spectrum. They run parallel. You can be freer if you have a certain discipline.'



If you hear a beat something in you awakens and you feel it. It's rhythm. It doesn't need words. You can tell a story through dance. Even if you don't understand Spanish, you will understand an expression on the face, the movement of the arm.



That's the journey of man. It's the story of the prodigal son, you leave but you come back and when you're back you know exactly who you are and your place in the environment of where you initially came from.

I think it's a global phenomenon. We are trying to find ourselves in the context of others.

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AGE AGAINST THE DYING OF THE LIGHT. Michelle Pfeiffer, wicked

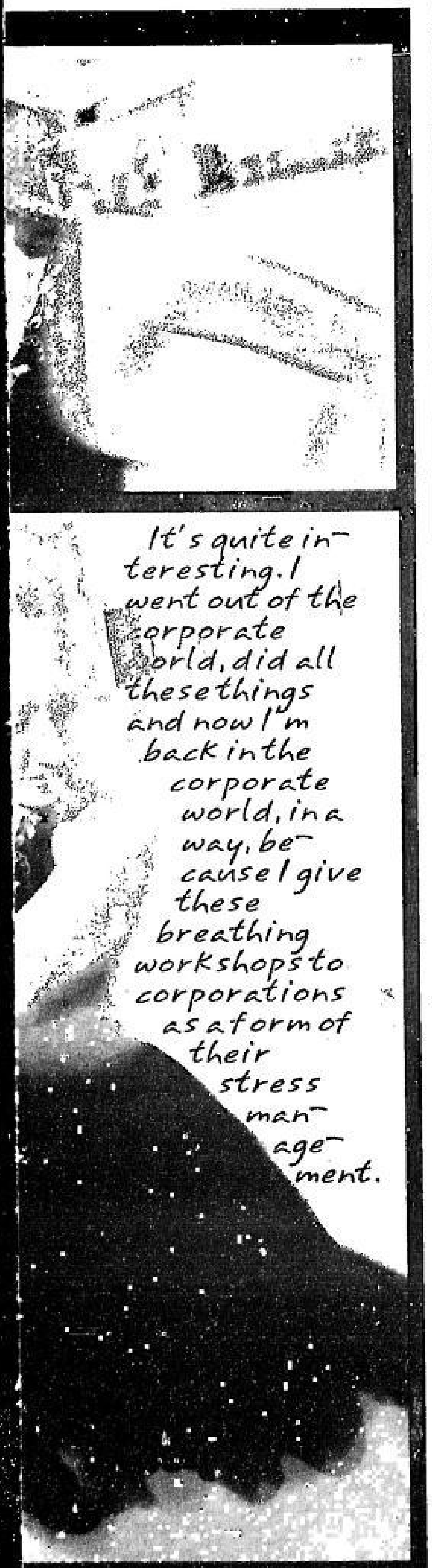
er boa. Was this a wink to the mascara-wearing ambisexual Captain Jack Sparrow of "The Pirates of the Caribbean"?

Mind the gap

Of course, the book was so much more magical when I first read it many years ago—I still prefer the art direction and setting in my head. Plus Yvaine in my imagination was played by a really talented Kate Moss, except she'd be snorting all the stardust. What did strike me while watching this fairy tale on the big screen was something I didn't really catch in the book, perhaps because it carries more meaning to me today—recognizing the Wall as a symbol for self-imposed limitations, as the refuge for those who'd rather languish in the comfort zone. Yet echoing a friend's sentiment, "the comfort zone is sooo overrated." Once in a while, an individual dares to "break on through to the other side."

As in most of my beloved fairy tales, a step through the looking glass, a jump down the rabbit hole or a walk through the closet is a brave move out of the world you know. Venturing to an unfamiliar place awakens those potentialities within that remain dormant in the safety zone. There begins the transformation, as the change of environment necessitates a change of mindset, and a bigger horizon inevitably leads to greater perspective.

Whatever those metaphorical walls mean to you, I'll leave that to your personal navel-gazing. The bigger question is, what will provoke you to break through them? Tristan Thorn busted out of the small town mentality when he looked up and followed the light. Sometimes, we just need distance to see things much clearer.



It's quite interesting. I went out of the corporate world, did all these things and now I'm back in the corporate world, in a way, because I give these breathing workshops to corporations as a form of their stress management.

Remembering the December Boys

THE WORLD OPENS UP TO four orphans, the "December Boys," when they take a trip outside their orphanage to a spectacular coastline. Reminiscent of "Stand by Me," this wonderful Australian film just tugs at the heartstrings, as it freezes an unforgettable summer in the lives of childhood friends. Daniel Radcliffe, who seems to really like taking these orphan roles, plays the eldest boy Maps, showing his versatility as an actor even without the flying broomstick. In this exclusive interview, screenwriter Marc Rosenberg tells Super about the story writing process, and how his own childhood memory played a part of his creative history.

What about the original story (by Michael Noonan) struck you most when you adapted the script?

It was the theme of nostalgia. Childhood memories leave indelible marks in your life.

Any personal childhood memory that illustrates this?

When I was a child, I got on a plane to attend my grandmother's funeral. For some reason I thought the plane's propeller was on fire, so I started screaming, "the plane's on fire!" My mother had to calm everyone and say, "he's just kidding!" In my mind, many years later, I wondered if maybe I dreamt it all. It was my brother who told me (long after) that it actually happened! That's the role of nostalgia, when you look back, there are events that seem bigger than life. You know they're important, that they'll play an important role in your history. Small things can happen that can change your life.

CLASS ACT. Daniel Radcliffe with screenwriter Marc Rosenberg

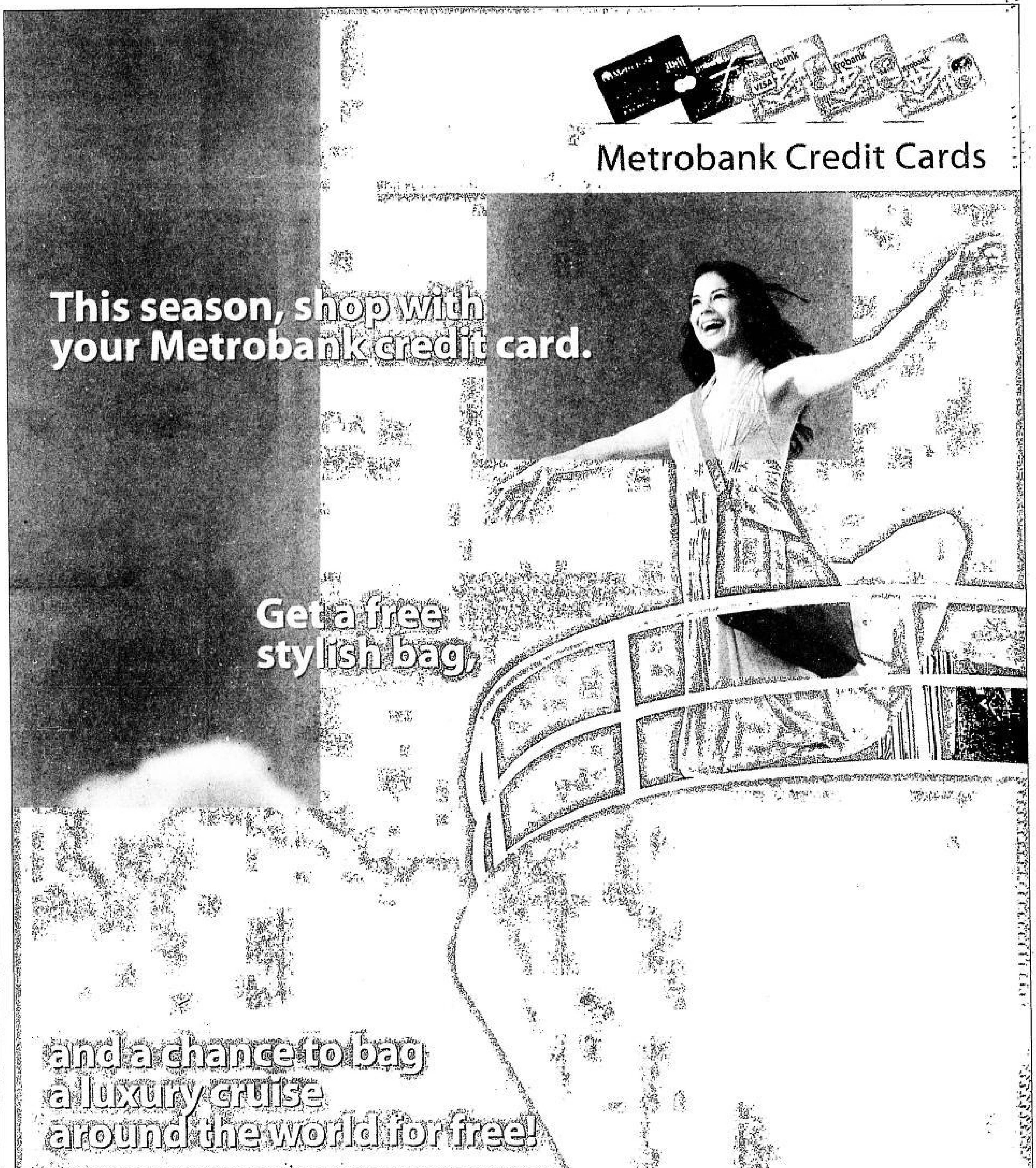
There was a very nostalgic feel to the film, as if it were a moving sepia photo. I think its setting played a big role. Where was it filmed?

It was shot in Kangaroo island, in Adelaide. It was isolated, and very beautiful, perfect for filming. It had a dreamlike quality, showing one extreme to another. It was almost a hostile environment. In the script, I wrote that there were seagulls like pterodactyls. It was a place that only existed in their imaginations.

What was it like working with Daniel Radcliffe?

Like winning the lottery. Daniel's parents first read the script and they loved it. Daniel loved it, and so agreed to do the role. Daniel was incredibly supportive. He encouraged everybody and downplayed his celebrity. A writer never has it better.

Tals Diaz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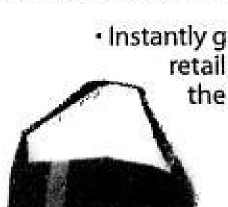

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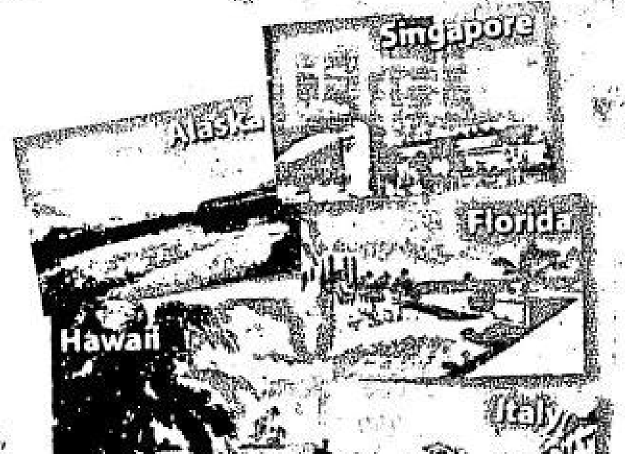

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By Janine Cuenca-Dario and Stef Juan

FEEL A TOUCH OF HEAVEN at one of the most awaited music events of the year, **JOSH GROBAN: LIVE IN MANILA**. The operatic pop superstar will make your heart soar as he sings his much-loved hits such as "You Raise Me Up," "You Are Loved," and "To Where You Are." The concert starts at 8 p. m. on Oct. 17 and 18 at the PICC Plenary Hall, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Call 891-9999.

Oh my Josh!

SEE just how you can combine philanthropy and your love for shopping on Oct. 19 and 20 at icanserve Foundation's **TICKLED PINK**, a benefit bazaar at the Rockwell Tent Makati, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Contact 687-3942, icanserve@yahoo.com or log on to www.icanserve.net.

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STEP into the classic feel of Ipanema, Grendha, Rider and Dupe on Oct. 13 and 14 at the Brazil-inspired lounge area, complete with ambient Brazilian music at the **SANDALIAS FESTIVAL** at the Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center. Call (0915) 995-1590

TICKLEDPINK

Pink lady

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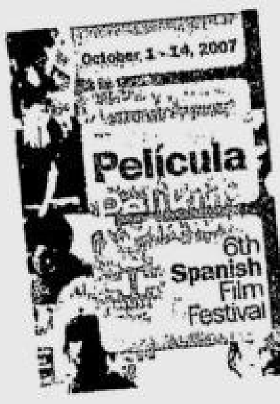
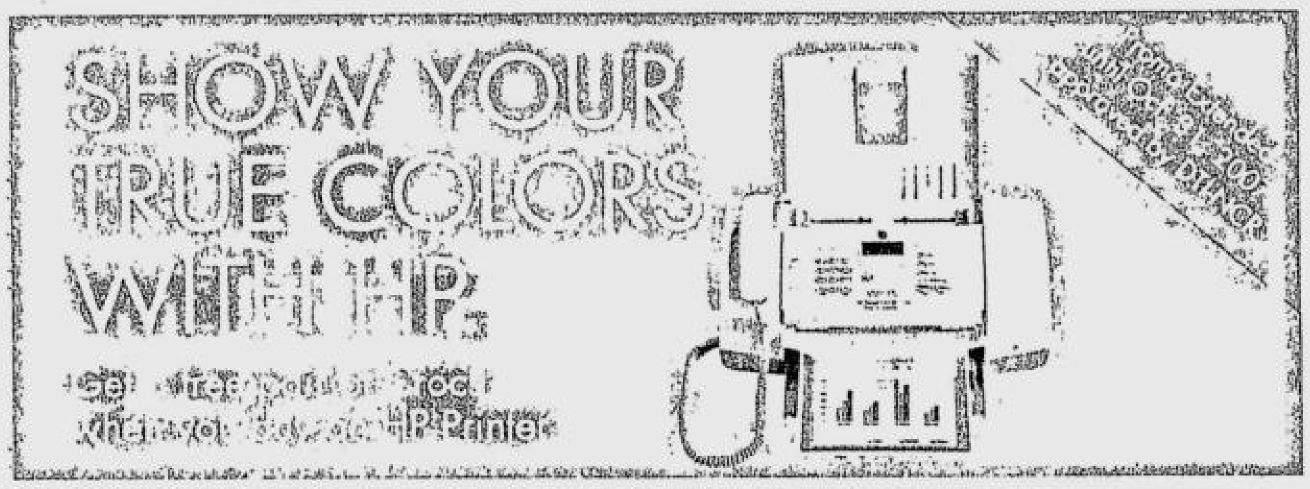
Spanish see-nema



WATCH the Spanish film "De Profundis," on the last weekend of **Pelicula Pelikula film festival** by Instituto Cervantes. This beautiful "poem in motion" tells the story of a woman waiting for her beloved painter in a house in the middle of the sea. Shows today at Greenbelt 3, 2 p.m.

Ipanema
Gisele Bündchen

Brazil at your feet



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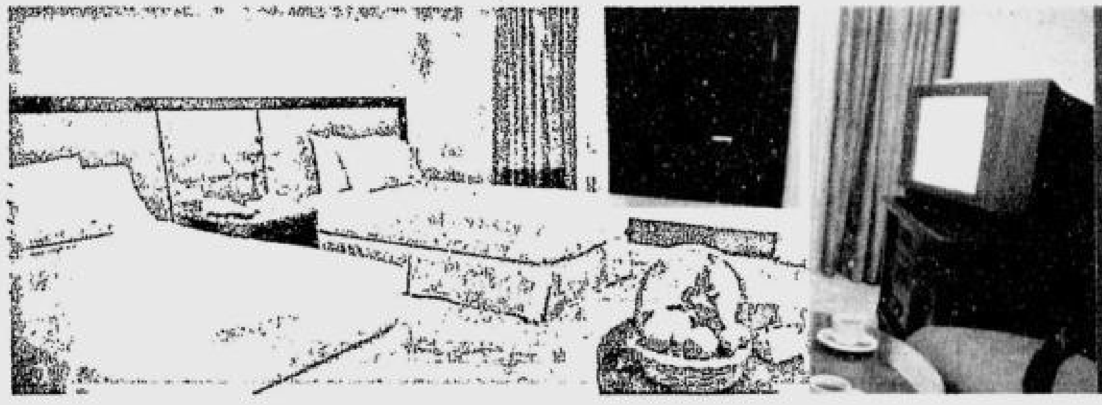

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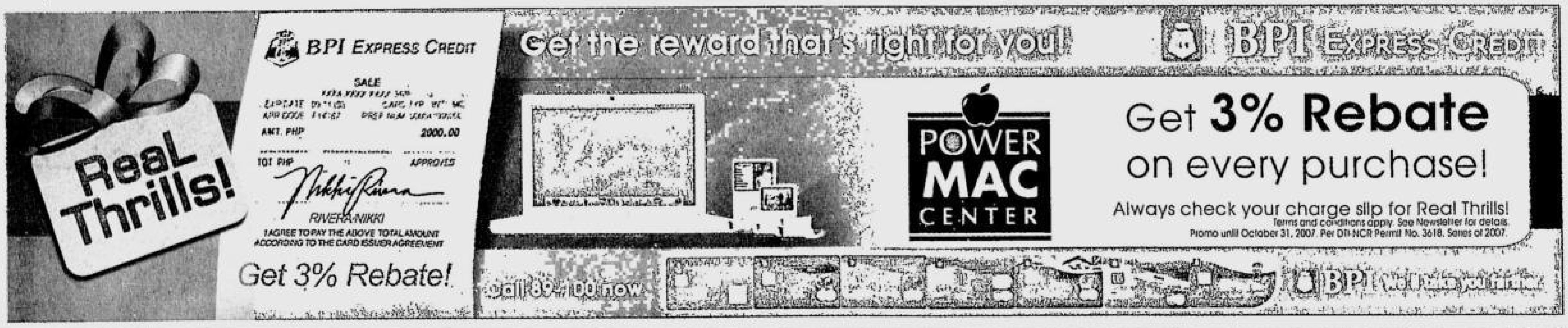
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The beauty of it

Daubing the walls of the world with graffiti, Stormie Mills thinks it's more important to raise emotional stakes than impress with color, color, color

THUNDER ROAD

James Gabrillo

IN 1984, STORMIE MILLS began his career as proscribed visual artist, gaining reputation for breaking the law—tagging walls, soaring over fences, and dashing down alleyways to grind his craft. Years later, he's asked to paint the cities of LA, Tokyo, Berlin and London, certainly a big leap from his misdemeanor-filled childhood days/daze.

In preparation for the Olympics five years ago, he was sent to Greece to create large-scale murals across the country. "It was fantastic," he beams like a 13-year-old chap raring to use up his first spray paint. "I'd go home, take a shower, and paint walls."

Arguably Australian's most skilled and most popular street artist, Stormie stormed the scene after a series of monochromatic works depicting a profoundly personal expression of the human condition. The innately rich feel of his graffiti lent a unique layer to his paintings, resulting to pieces on unhappy creatures that ironically hurl vibes of goodness to the viewer.

The night before he stirred Manila with an exceptional art demo called DekArt 2007 Philippines arranged by revolutionarily kewl sneaker company Royal Elastics, Stormie Mills sat down with Super to talk about his story—from failing art in high school to finding real beauty amidst the decay.

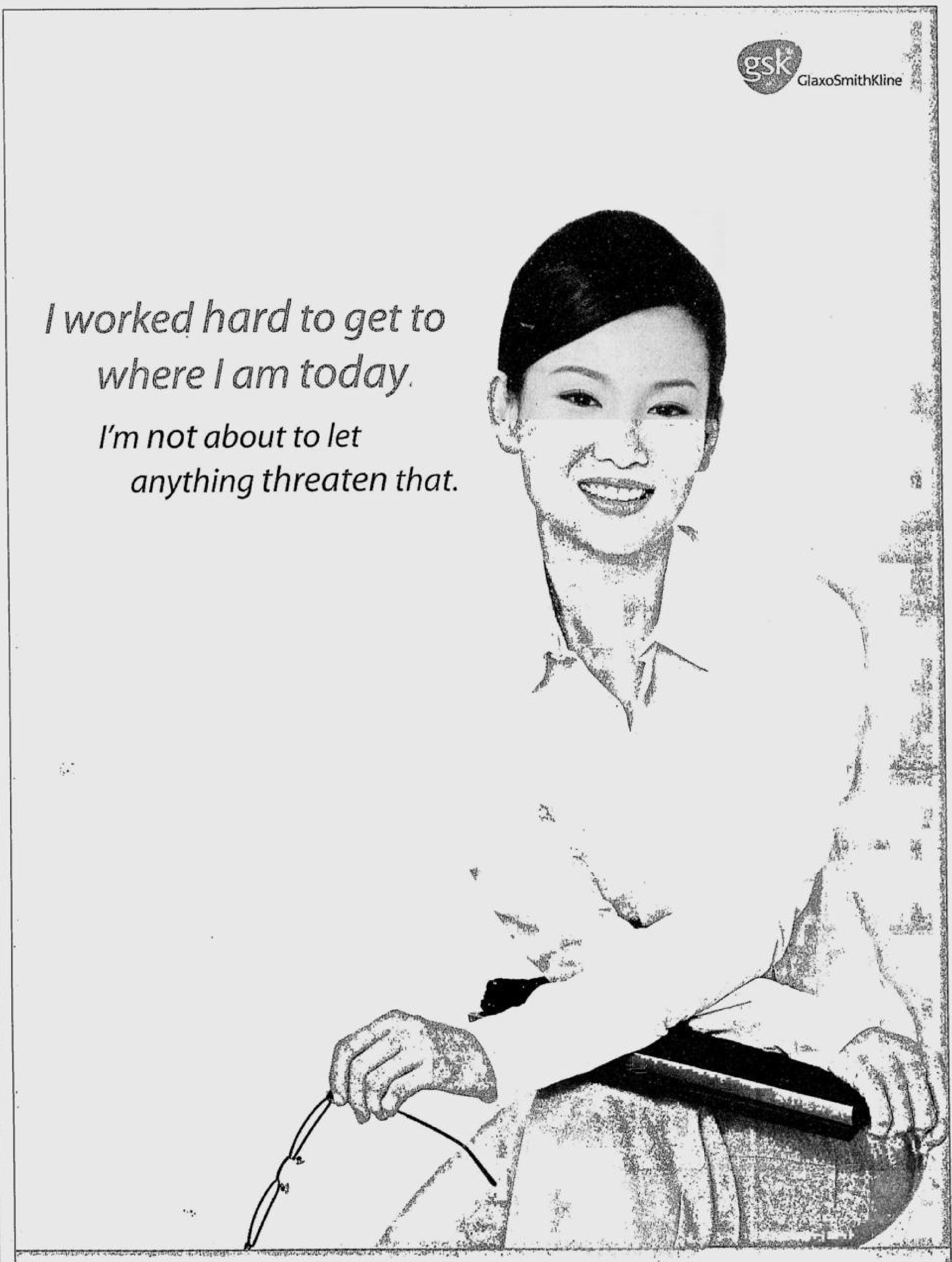
How did it all begin? What drew you to become a visual artist?

I always drew as a child. When I discovered art, I felt really attracted to it. It was a progression from then on—I left home and went all over the world. All I did was draw and paint stuff. Everything sort of evolved from there. That single mindedness and focus on art did it for me.

I heard that you failed art in high school.

*(Laughs)*I don't think it's about the failing grades from the teachers but more like they didn't understand what I was

THE BEAUTY/D2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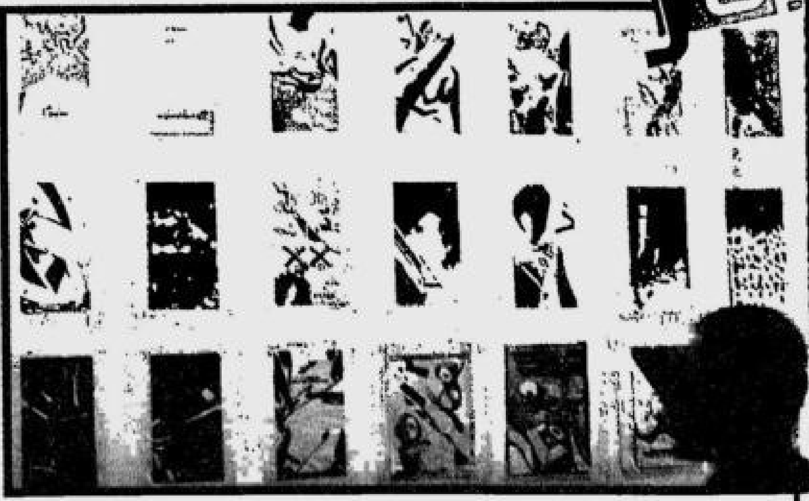
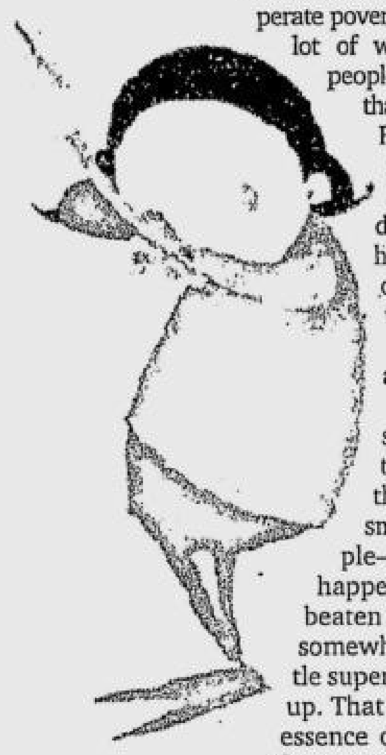
The beauty of it

From page D1

WORKING ON RAW SURFACES, he challenges viewers by choosing to explore the texture of life





trying to do. Because when I started doing what I do, especially with graffiti, it was very new. Like I wanted to do things with spray paint but there was no spray paint in school. People didn't understand what spray paint was all about. They kept on giving me paintbrushes and I wasn't interested in that sort of stuff during that time.

Did the environment that you had while growing up affect your art?

As a kid, we were always moving, like from Australia to the UK. I remember being in India when I was 10 and freaking out about the desperate poverty that was there. That gave me a lot of weird drawings. Underprivileged people—that's what I was seeing and that's what I was drawing that time. For me, that stuff has a lot of resonance now because I'm still talking about that in my paintings and drawings. I'm still talking about the human condition. Damage on the outside or on the inside—that's what I'm speaking about.

Your works seem to resonate a damaged sense of beauty.

Yeah, I like that damaged sense of beauty. It's like that little superhero in the dam truck, that sort of thing. The crooked smile, those little nuances of people—those little things that have happened to their lives that have beaten them down a little bit. But somewhere deep inside there's that little superhero that keeps on getting back up. That to me, that tragic beauty, is the essence of the human character. That's the great thing about people, right? All kinds of people doing all kinds of stuff while battling it on.

How do you find beauty amidst the decay in the real world? 'Cause sure it's easy to see this in your art; but what about in everyday life?

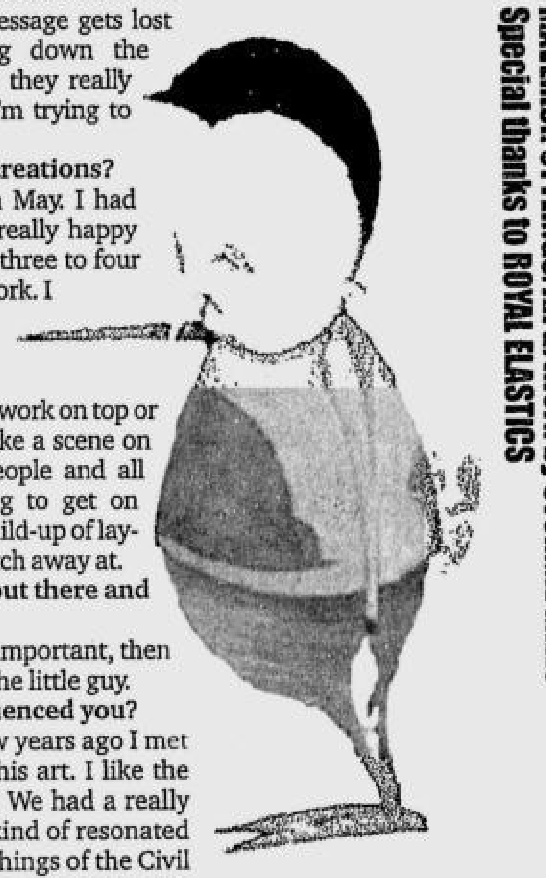
I've been in the real world too often *(laughs)*. It's in everything, and in everybody. You just gotta look hard. You know, like when you meet a big guy with long hair and crazy eyes. Why is that person like that? Because he's made himself look appear bigger and stronger and more threatening. But there's gotta be a reason behind that. You don't just wake up one day and go, I wanna look like that. There's a process of evolution, things happen. Maybe he's protective, or maybe it's a suit of armor that he's created for himself that he wears continually. And I've seen this a lot—I've seen a guy who's like that. And I've seen him in my city all the time. I've seen him wander around, where he sort of walks angrily. And then one Sunday morning, I saw him with a child who must have been his daughter and he was a completely different person. Like, his eyes were soft. The kid was smiling and then they were laughing. This guy's heavy suit of armor was gone. The little girl in his arms stripped it away. And that's what I'm trying to get at: with these drawings of weird, scary little people—underneath all of that is a heart, a soul.

Do you prefer to work with certain media or devices?

I like to draw with certain pens but I'm not fixated on those things. I guess I've acquired the mentality of creating whenever and wherever I can. If all I can find is a roll of paint and a paper then so be it.

What about choosing your colors?

I use black, white, gray and silver. Predominantly those are my colors of choice because I want to concentrate on the character, I want you to look at that, I don't want you to look at the pretty colors. You can have nice beautiful colors but sometimes the message gets lost in there. I think stripping down the essence of the person, who they really are, the core—that's what I'm trying to do. So I keep it very basic.



What are your favorite creations?

I just had a solo show in May. I had about 27 pieces and I was really happy with all of those. It took me three to four years to build that body of work. I spent a lot of time creating layers on things and I put in my work on top or in those layers. You know, like a scene on the street with cars and people and all that—that's what I'm trying to get on with my work, that sort of build-up of layers that you can kind of scratch away at.

What drives you to get out there and paint?

The message. If I feel it's important, then I do it—you know, beef up the little guy.

Which artists have influenced you?

There's quite a few. A few years ago I met Futura—I've always liked his art. I like the way he approaches things. We had a really good chat that time. That kind of resonated to my art. I also like the etchings of the Civil War, those black pretty ones. Those I really like. There are also some conceptual artists

MAVERICK STYLINGS. All artwork by STORMIE MILLS
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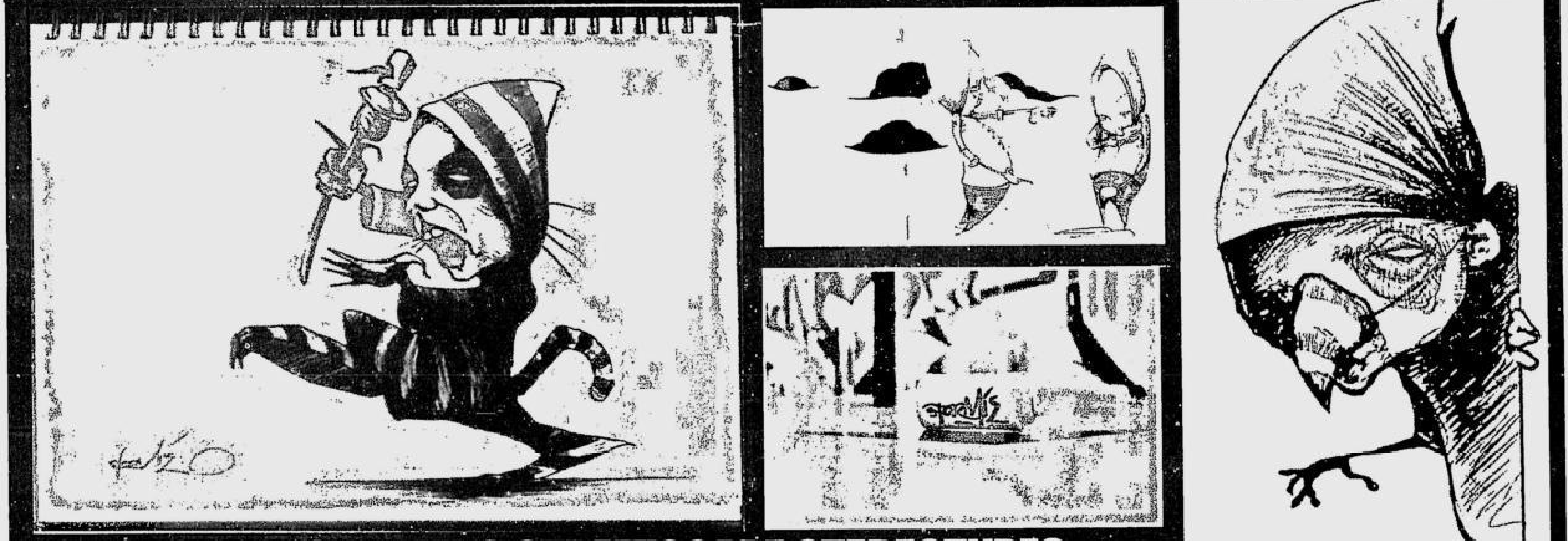

STORMIE SHATTERS STREETSCAPE STEREOTYPES

FROM MILAN WITH LOVE. David Milan's gal pals

SLEEPLESS SUNDAYS. Stephen Ku and Leica Carpo

DIVINE RIGHT. Divine Lee and Adriano Cartuliares

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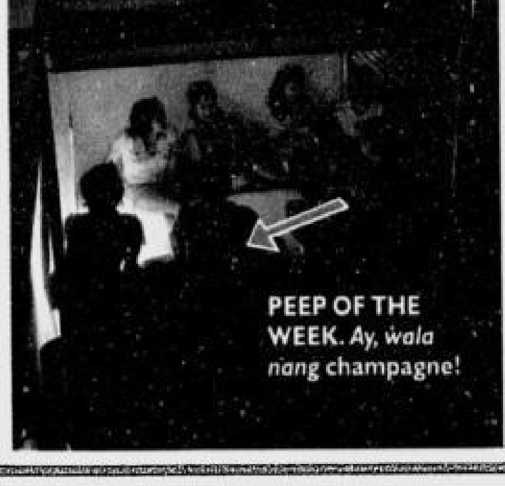

PEEP OF THE WEEK. *Ay, wala nang champagne!*

SPINDEPENDENT. DJ Manolet Dario

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AFTERNOON DELIGHTS. LJ Laudico, Gino dela Paz, Tals Diaz, Clarisse Chongbian, JM Rodriguez and Cat Arambulo that I like but their works don't influence my work. I simply respect their ideals and their core message—the core value of what they're trying to say.

When did you willfully and fully take on the role of being an artist?

Probably about seven years ago. I was working for these people, doing really good things—organizing workshops and stuff for young people; but I wasn't very happy with the people I was working for. And some people were stopping me—they didn't think I should be giving spray paint to kids. So I was kind of down and my friend Reggie came over, and he's a professional clown. And he said to me, what you should do is love what you do and do what you love, and don't worry about the money—that will happen. That's it, pretty much after that I've been doing what he said.

Do you have to access a certain place in yourself in order to create art?

(Laughs) That's exactly what I do. I think about things a lot, I have one of these *(shows a hardbound sketchbook)* that I always carry everywhere with me where I'd scribble down ideas, and they eventually come out in the canvas or in the wall.

The artist as a social being—talk about the process of seeing yourself in this sense.

Being an artist for me—it's all I got, it's the only way that I've got to tell my story, to tell other people's stories, to get my message across. So it's in a way my voice. If I don't have that, I've got nothing. So yeah, I live and breathe and I spend all my time doing my art. It's taken me around the world—it brings me here, and it has taken me to a lot of other places. For me it's like, there are other means out there, but this, this is the most important.

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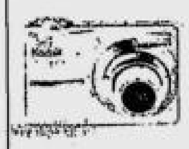

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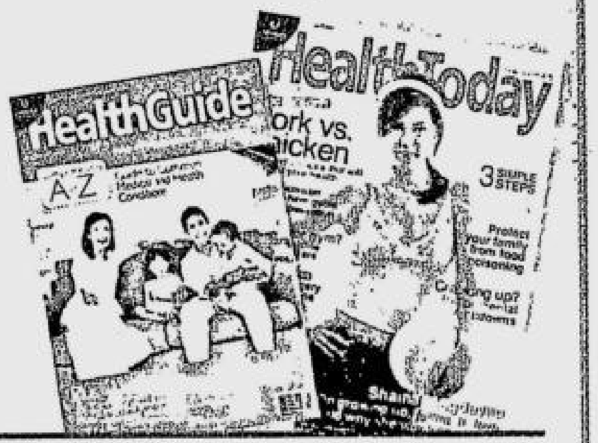

Register and reserve seats:

Send full name and contact details to
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Why front load washing machines are the better choice.

With 100 years of European heritage and global experience in the appliance industry, Electrolux products are trusted to provide the best care for homes in over 150 countries worldwide.

At Electrolux, consumer insights are essential. Extensive consumer research is used to develop high-quality products that always have consumer needs and lifestyles in mind. [illegible] They believes that thoughtfulness is a way of life and a way to design products with innovations that provide relevant solutions to various appliance needs.

Electrolux front load washing machines are designed with today's consumer in mind. There are more and more reasons for consumers to choose front load washing machines over the old-fashioned top load washing machines. [illegible] They don't twist clothes like top load washing machines do. This ensures that different types of fabrics are cared for gently and efficiently without compromising cleaning power. [illegible] Electrolux front load washing machines use only 10 to 16 liters of water per wash for a savings of 30% to 70% compared to top load washing machines. This helps consumers play a part in water conservation while also saving on utility bills.

Electrolux washing machine and dryers are easy to use. They are made to be simple and friendly. The control panel of each washer features labeled buttons and dials that help owners make every use a trouble-free experience. Customized wash programs ensure that different types of fabrics are protected and cleaned properly with just a simple touch of a button. Electrolux front load washers automatically adjust the time and water needed to make every wash hassle-free. There is even a Quick Wash push button on all Electrolux front load washing machines enabling users to wash clothes faster than normal.

[illegible]

Front load washers are tested for durability and have a longer machine life than top loaders. They are made to be durable and dependable making sure that consumers receive excellent results and lasting service year after year, wash after wash.

Electrolux front load washing machines are elegantly designed to fit perfectly in any home. Stylish and compact, these washing machines are made to enhance any laundry area. Front load washing machines and dryers can be stacked one of top of the other to save space while providing for every fabric care need. [illegible] *has become the [illegible] front load washing [illegible] designer in the [illegible]*

Now, getting the best in life has never been easier with special discounts and easy payment schemes on Electrolux front load washers and dryers available at all major appliance dealers nationwide. [illegible] *serves an Electrolux [illegible] in this premium brand [illegible] now as simple [illegible]*

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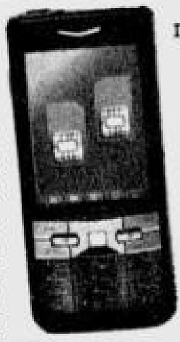
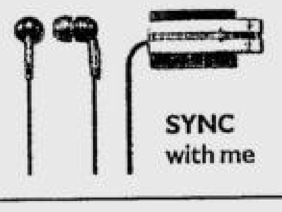


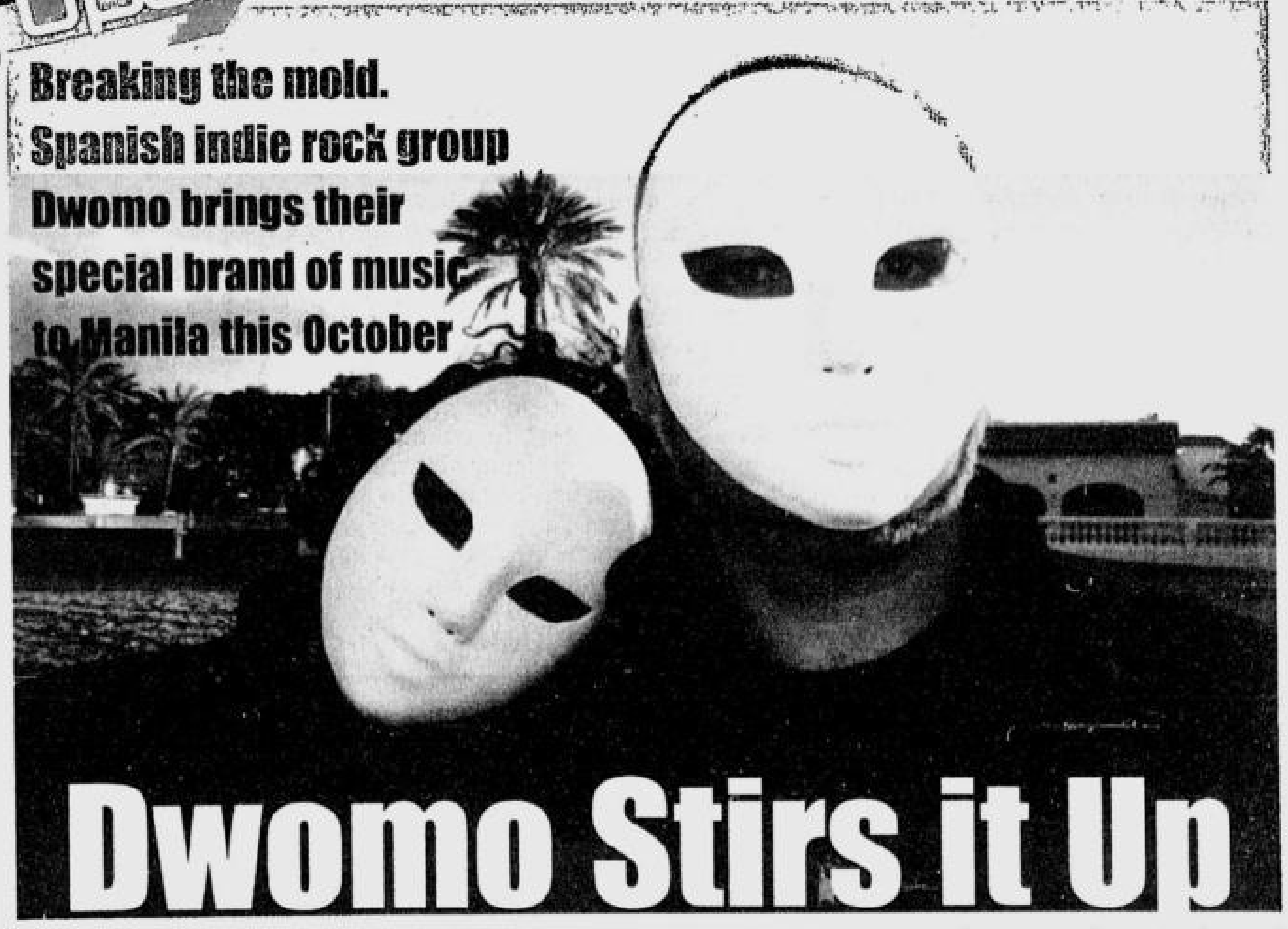
SIM your heart out with the T22 Duo

For the James Bond in all of us, the My Phone T22 Duo offers you a chance to lead a double life by allowing the use of two SIM cards at the same time. This feature is fantastic for traveling abroad especially when you want to lessen or avoid expensive roaming charges. You can purchase a local SIM in the country you're in for outside calling and text messaging yet receive through your Philippine SIM and not be branded a snob or too cheap to answer back! For those who want a wannabee PDA the phone has a 240x320 pixel touch screen which you can use with a stylus type instrument or your fingers if you're deft enough. Although using the phone may take some getting used to since there are two call buttons (you just have to remember which one applies to SIM 1 and SIM 2) it is relatively easy to use. There is a predictive text feature for messages, an MP3 and MP4 player plus a 2.0 megapixel CMOS camera for emergency shots if your digicam runs out of battery (or if you don't have a camera period) and you can download them immediately via USB or Bluetooth. An all around good buy since it retails for less than better known brands. Popular? Why not buy two local SIMs and double your *barkada* (or hide from one). For more information on My Phone log on to www.myphone.com.ph

Born To Be Wireless

Sony Bluetooth recently celebrated the wireless lifestyle with LA's DJ Echo on deck at Embassy Superclub. As a souvenir from that supercharged night, we're giving away this Sony wireless headset. Tell us how you live the wireless lifestyle and the best answer wins! E-mail us at *super@inquirer.com.ph.*





Breaking the mold. Spanish indie rock group Dwomo brings their special brand of music to Manila this October

Dwomo Stirs it Up

Interview by Katrina A. Holigores
Special thanks to Instituto Cervantes de Manila

HAILING FROM MADRID, MUsicians Jorge Loran Martin Fabiani and Antonio J. Iglesias Zurita form Dwomo, an indie folk rock band who describe themselves as a "Cosmic Cocktail." Their sound is a moving mix of techno, rock and a little urban soul. Dwomo gives Super an exclusive interview on their music, their vibe and their upcoming trip to Manila this month.

Q: How would you best describe your music and who or what are your influences?

We call what we do "cosmic cocktail" because of the freedom we have in our creation, the way we mix up our musical ingredients, we do not limit ourselves to one specific genre, rather we find a sound, like a guiding light that is the closest to what we feel at that specific moment we compose. We create our music in the "now" based on what we're going through in that precise moment. When we perform in Manila we will be doing the same thing, playing what we feel. We are like scientists, concocting up something different each time. We have influences that stem from diverse forms, film soundtracks, rock or punk bands, heavy metal, techno, dub, country and bossanova. How we feel about music on a creative level is a mission to attain a personal sound without limiting ourselves to just one type of influence.

Q: Have you been to the Philippines before?

This will be our first time in the Philippines but we've been to Asia, we were in Beijing in 2006. We think the expression "Ultimos de Filipinas" as a metaphor for resistance is very moving and we like the names of the regions such as Luzon and Mindanao, it reminds us of a romantic pair such as Romeo and Juliet, but in Asia. We're looking forward to our visit, and we hope to return to Europe with original Philippine music.

Q: What is your opinion of present day music? Do you think you belong to the MTV Generation?

We're not of the MTV Generation, and we can definitely say there is a huge choice out there, both good and bad with the music of today. There will always be new groups and new sounds and since accessibility to different vibes and grooves are much easier now and music is going through a revolution.

Q: What is the music scene like in Spain now?

The Spanish music scene we view as a consolidation of ideas and sounds inherited through the indie movement of the '90s as well as people who dared to go against the norms of the conventional. There is still mainstream music of course which stays safe with a few exceptions. We view ourselves as more international and worldly. We want to spread a universal message that can be expressed in many languages, be it English, Spanish, Japanese, Latin, etc. It's for whoever wants to know our music and what we're trying to say. It's an ongoing journey.

Dwomo will be in Manila on Oct. 27, 9 p.m. at the Instituto Cervantes de Manila. Admission is free. For more information on this event and other events for Spanish month festivities log on to http://manila.cervantes.es

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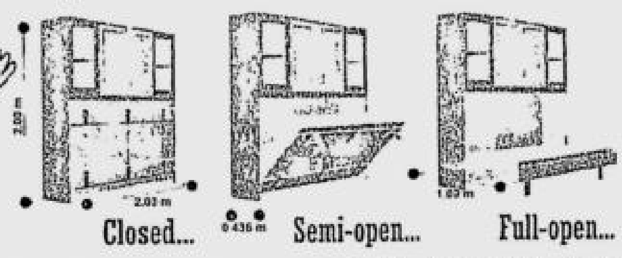

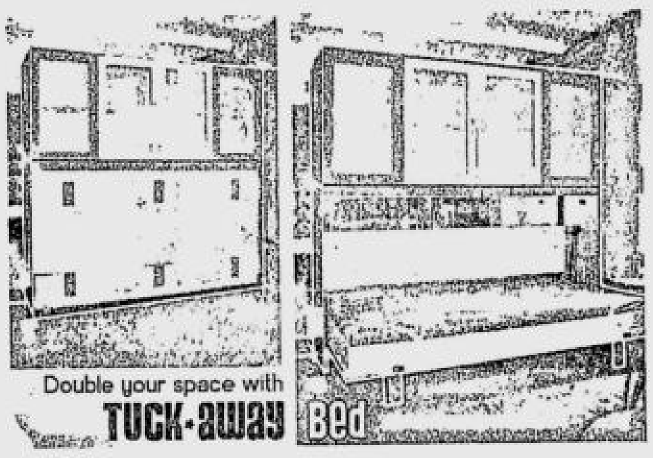

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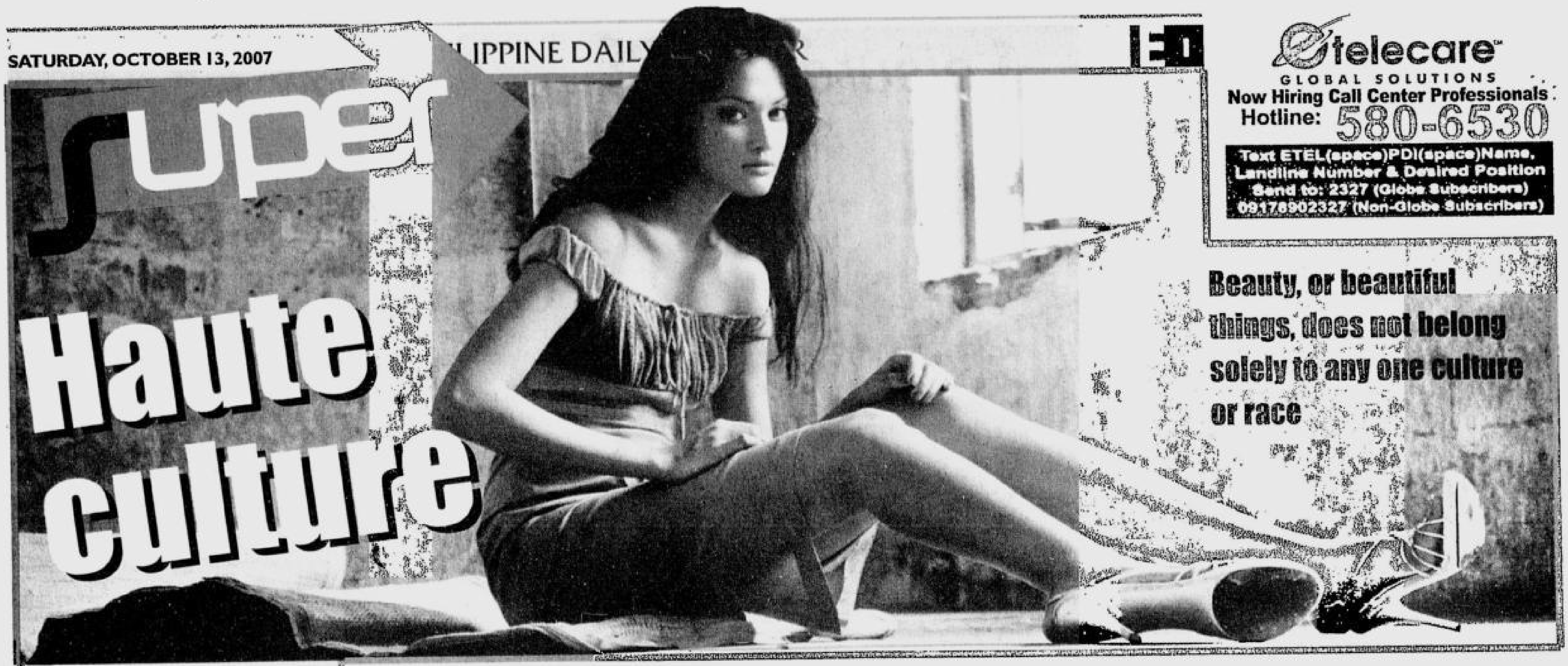
October

6	Walking Tour of Intramuros	See Manila in a whole new light with historian Carlos Celdran	San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
13	Old Manila Walks	Ivan ManDy takes you on a tour of the historic streets of Binondo, Manila	Binondo Church, Manila 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm
20	Images of Rock at the MET Museum	A gallery tour featuring *The Rocked Age: Images of Loud Music Culture.*	Metropolitan Museum Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Manila 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
27	Great Filipino Artists at Ayala Museum	See masterpieces of Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo, Fernando Zobel & Damian Domingo	Ayala Museum Makati Ave. cor. Dela Rosa Sts. Greenbelt Park, Makati City 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

November

10	Jung Seminar	Discover how powerful your mind can truly be with the Friend of Jung Society	Magnet Cafe, Seminar Room, Bonifacio Hi-Street, Bonifacio Global City 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
17	Cemetery Tour	A spine-tingling trip with Ivan ManDy of Old Manila Walks	Chinese La Loma Cemetery Crematorium 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
27	Tarot Card & Feng Shui Reading	Find out what your future holds	Powerbooks, Greenbelt 3, Makati 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm



Haute culture

Beauty, or beautiful things, does not belong solely to any one culture or race

By Wanggo Gallaga

ANY FAN OF TELEVISION pop culture knows that when the girls that are still in the running to be America's Next Top Model are down to 6 they are suddenly uprooted and are brought to some exotic foreign land.

The competition has been everywhere from Thailand to South Africa, London to Sydney, Bangkok to Barcelona and then some. Paris and Milan will always be a fashion Mecca but New York, London, Barcelona, Shanghai, Tokyo and even Singapore can stand on their own and serve as proof that in every part of the globe, fashion is serious business.

While our own local brands like Bench have begun to open in different countries abroad, foreign brands have made their way here and have managed to become style watchwords. This is no different in any other country.

Before the year ends, we will come to witness the arrival of Ambre in Manila. Ambre is Cambodian designer Romyda Keth's shop. Sophisticated and elegant, Romyda's designs approaches fashion with a global perspective. Romyda studied in Paris and this has come into her work. "I suppose a lot of the permanent influence comes from the fact that Paris is a great hub of international trends therefore my creative style tends to reflect this cosmopolitan lifestyle," she says. She explains that she aims to be "cosmopolite and therefore reach out to different sorts of cultures. Some of the themes you will find in the present collection are drawn from Japanese, African as well as European influences."

Global designs

Culture never needed a visa to travel. It just has to catch the eye of someone who commands attention and it will spread. The Japanese trend came about when pop culture heroes like Quentin Tarantino envisioned Gogo Yubari in "Kill Bill," Gwen Stefani sung about Harajuku girls and even Madonna wore a kimono for her video of "Nothing Really Matters." Punctuated

HAUTE / E3

AMBRE is the color of your energy.

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Makeup by MAY-ONE BAKUNAWA
Hair by GEOFF SIMPSON of Salon Prive
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Shot in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
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For reservations, please call Polo Bistro at (082)221-0888 local 7952.

Astoria Plaza's Halloopalooza

HALLOOPALOOZA

ASTORIA PLAZA HAS a "Star Wars" Halloween party on Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. These events for families with younger goblins might just do the trick and treat. For only P350 net per person adults and children of all ages can explore the galaxy far, far away. Prizes await kids who come in their best star wars costume and bring out the Jedi in them. Astoria Plaza will treat kids to craft painting, games, trick or treats and snacks. Halloopalooza is made possible in cooperation with Enchanted Kingdom, Kraft and San Miguel. For ticket inquiries, call Café Astoria at 687-1111 or visit www.astoriaplaza.com. Astoria Plaza is located at #15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts Corp.

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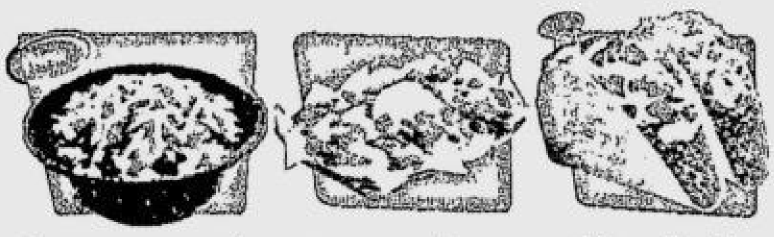
BITE INTO THE CRAZY BEEF roll -- a salmon and cheese combination wrapped with thinly sliced beef and coated with breadcrumbs then deep-fried to perfection. To complete the experience, dip it in dynamite mayo. This offer is valid from 2 to 6 p.m. VAT inclusive and no service charge. Not valid with other discounts and promos. Branches: T. Morato corner Scout Castor, QC (372- 3721); Acropolis, Libis, QC (911-7748); L2 Robinsons Galleria, Edsa QC (636-7085); L2 Robinsons Place Manila (524-8778); Lower Ground Floor, Building B, SM Mega Mall (631-9998); GF, Fiesta Strip, SM City Pampanga (045 961-4779); Market! Market! Fronting Serendra, The Fort, Taguig (889-3856); Westgate Alabang (771-1991).



A new taste adventure awaits you at Taco Bell

TACO BELL IS UP FOR A NEW TASTE ADVENTURE FOR LUNCH, WITH its 9 exciting rice combo meals - Big Bell Value Menu. With nachos sprinkles and 12 oz drink value added for each meal, Taco Bell's Big Bell Value Menu has the Crunchy Taco, Double Decker Taco Supreme, Beef and Rice Fiesta Bowl, Pork Barbeque Burrito, 2 Tacos, ½ pound Beef and Potato Burrito, Grilled Pork Barbeque Burrito, Grande Soft Taco and the ½ pound Beef Combo Burrito. The Big Bell Value Menu is Taco Bell's commitment to providing customers with sensational tastes at an everyday low price. Find awesome variety by adding any item to your regular combo order. And while you're enjoying your Big Bell Value Menu, have fun with Taco Bell's in-store promos and grab home some exclusive items and prices - all for one "Bell" of an excitement. Owned and operated solely by Philippine Pizza Inc, Taco Bell has branches in: ground floor of Gateway Mall along Roxas St., beside Araneta Coliseum; 3rd Level of Gateway Mall; and ground floor of SM South Mall. Taco Bell recently opened another branch in Trinoma.

ASB Condotels staff participates in Caliraya Re-Creation Center's teambuilding program

CALIRAYA RE-CREATION CENTER, LUMBAN, LAGUNA'S PREMIERE RESORT, recently launched its highly dynamic teambuilding program with ASB Condotels and Resort's sales and marketing teams as its first ever participants. Caliraya Re-Creation Center's teambuilding program focuses on the over-all improvement of each member, maximizing their potential, and complementing their respective teams. The resort has assembled a competent group of facilitators that adjust every program to the specific needs of every group. ASB Condotels and Resort's sales teams experienced first hand how each unique activity offered freewheeling discussions and choices that ultimately made the program lively and truly enriching. Caliraya Re-Creation Center's teambuilding program is a must-try experience for every company who wish to strengthen business and work relationships, increase employee efficiency, and have utmost fun at the same time. With the resort's multitude of facilities and scenic landscapes, no other teambuilding program in the country offers positive enrichment and memorable moments that only Caliraya Re-Creation Center can offer. For inquiries and reservations, call (02)632-1010 locals 264 and 272 or visit at www.asbgroup.com.ph or directly book through e-mail at reservations.condotels@asbgroup.com.ph. ASB Condotels and Resort is a division of the St. Francis Square Group of Companies.

Waterfront launches new look on the Internet

WATERFRONT PHILIPPINES INC (WPI), THE LARGEST FILIPINO owned and managed first class hotel chain in the country launched a new look on the Internet recently. With the increasing trends on online booking for hotels, Waterfront took a major step in managing its own back-end operations of its on-line booking system. The website is powered by Micros Fidelio, the world's leading provider of enterprise application for hospitality and retail industries worldwide. Waterfront is the first hotel chain in the country to manage its very own e-reservations, where all its database and back-end operations are being done in the Philippines, unlike other hotels where the on-line booking system are being sourced out in other countries. For quick and hassle-free reservations in any Waterfront hotels, one may log on to www.waterfronthotels.com.ph or call 687-0888 or email msro@watefronthotels.net.

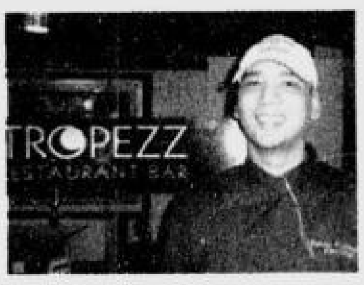
North Park Greenhills moves to new location

NORTH PARK ALONG WILSON ST. IN WEST GREENHILLS, TRANSferred to a new location, just a block away at P. Guevarra St. corner V. Cruz also in the City of San Juan. The 3-story building is an expertly built structure, adorned with modern interiors and functional furniture, its spacious dining areas can seat over 200 people at any one time. Its air-conditioned first and second floors are now open, making you feel - it never left it just became better. Surely you can continue to enjoy North Park dishes daily from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. and very soon, Al Fresco dining will be offered at the 3rd floor, additional parking areas will also be available. Delivery at your doorstep is just a five-number dial away, dial 73737 and order from your home or office.

Starbucks gives green tea a modern twist

IN A CAMPAIGN THAT will run for the next two months, Starbucks is putting the spotlight on Blackberry Green Tea Frappuccino Blended Cream and Green Tea Latte. These special beverages were recently introduced to the media through an afternoon Japanese tea-pouring ceremony highlighting the Japanese centuries-old tradition of grinding premium quality matcha (ground green tea leaves). Blackberry Green Tea Frappuccino Blended Cream has the same great flavor of Green Tea Frappuccino made with blackberry sauce and topped with more blackberry drizzle for a modern twist on green tea. Meanwhile, the Green Tea Latte is a fresh new way to experience green tea and milk at Starbucks. A delicious blend of lightly sweetened matcha green tea, and fresh milk, it can be enjoyed hot or iced as a healthy alternative to regular tea beverages. It is interesting to know that Green Tea Latte contains as many antioxidants as an equal amount of orange juice making it a very healthy treat.

Great food at Tropezz



DENNIS Villalobos, Tropezz chef

THE SOUS CHEF OF TROPEZZ RESTO Bar is only 32 years old but has been in love with food for the past 12 years. His passion in food preparation is evident as seen in the careful thought that went into the preparation of the deceptively simple Belly Mucho. A delectable, extremely pleasing pork dish, it is marinated overnight before it is slow roasted for four hours to come up with the melt-in-your-mouth consistency that is not achieved by the usual restaurant short-cuts. Beyond the already unique and exquisitely prepared food available in the menu, Tropezz is able to generate choice menus that would fit the occasion or event of the client. Offered for October are: the P199 Lunch Special for the corporate clients who wish to have a quick, reasonable priced but delicious meal for their staff meetings; the Oktoberfest Bar Menu and the Laffapalooza Jack TV Special Nachos. Enjoy these and more while listening to the bands rocking the night away. Tropezz Resto Bar is located at the second level of Greenbelt 3, Makati City. Reservations can be made at tel. nos. 757-4484 and 757-4485.

More than a child's b-day party at Tony Roma's

TONY ROMA'S, THE CASUAL AMERICAN FAMILY RESTAURANT THAT IS world famous for its Baby Back Ribs offers more than just great ribs and other flame-grilled specialties. It is also an ideal place to host your child's birthday party where you can be assured of a fun-filled birthday with great food and exciting activities. With a minimum spending of P5,500, parents can look forward to a fantastic 'Children's Birthday Party': invitation cards for your guests (up to 20 cards), party novelties for kids (up to 20 sets), games for kids - Tony Roma's kid friendly party host and hostess will organize fun and exciting games that your kids will enjoy. To book, simply give them 7 days advance notice. Party timings are from Mondays to Saturdays with the following available time slots: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more info contact: 757-1925/6 (Glorietta) or 771-1388 (Alabang).

A family oriented Halloween at The Renaissance

THE RENAISSANCE MAKATI CITY HOTEL, MANILA INVITES YOU TO A FUN Halloween holiday with the "Family Fun Tricks and Treats" special room package, available from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4. Stay at a deluxe room for P4,099+++ (room only) and enjoy an array of discounts in products and services such as: a 20 percent discount on the Drink of the Month; 20 percent discount at all food and beverage outlets; 20 percent discount on massage services from the Marahai Spa; 10 percent discount on car hire services, and complimentary local calls. Children are given additional treats as loot bags full of candies and sweets are given when families dine in the outlets, and if checked-in, a surprise will await them when they return to their rooms at night. A maximum of two adults and two children aged 12 or below may stay in a room. The special discounted room package offer is valid only for local residents and foreigners with a valid alien certificate of registration. For more info call 811-6888.

Conway's Bar
813 8888 ext. 7026

Heaven 'n Eggs
(02) 818-2792
(02) 889-3791

Sushi-Ya
0917-84-sushi

Mey Lin Pot & Noodle House
899 6688 / 899 8999

Kalye Juan
0920-94-kalye

Tong Yang Shabu-Shabu & BBQ Restaurant
899 3388 / 897 4148

Tony Roma's Restaurants
757 1926 / 771 1388

Palaisdaan Restaurant
Barangay Dapdap, Tayabas, Quezon
(042) 793-3529

Island Foot & Body Wellness
899 1234 / 751 8296

Lola Maria Coffeeshop
60 Pioneer St. Mandaluyong City
633-1501 to 10

Cafe Mediterranean
Greenbelt
894-4032

FJ's Grill
24 Timog Ave, Q.C.
376-2559

Bo's Coffee Club

The Old Spaghetti House
687-6630

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

North Park
73737

Causeway Seafood Restaurant
24 Timog Ave, Q.C.
376-2559

MUSEUM CAFÉ
Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4
757-3000
757-6000

Clawdaddy Crabhouse and American Grill
636-5679

Kopiroti Davao
(082)3016009

Chelsea Market & Cafe
909-7011
909-7012

RUN fashion, run

LIKE, where's my car?

Haute culture

SEE girl pose

GIRL can pose

POSE, girl, pose

From page E1

by the niche that worships Anime and Hayao Miyazaki being nominated and winning Academy Awards for his full length animated features, Japan will always be blamed for women wearing short-short skirts or skimpy sailor outfits. Culture is a frequent flyer that never stays too long and sometimes arrives without warning.

"I do not think that my work is specifically representative of any culture, be it Cambodian or other," Romyda expounds. "However there are specific styles that I frequently like to explore again and again like the embroideries and subtle designs of Asian style, the exuberance and gaiety of the Spanish/ Latin, the sophistication and timeless elegance of the European as well as the vitality and creativity of the African." For her latest collection, Romyda had a fashion shoot in her homeland where she has resettled since the early 90s. The juxtaposition of her design's global mix and mash of trends with an old mansion serving as a location, ridden with bullet holes and torn up since the Khmer Rouge, somehow makes the statement that beauty, or beautiful things, does not belong solely to any one culture or race.

Breaking boundaries

Ambre is present in Paris, Singapore, Tokyo, Ho Chi Minh City and soon, Manila. There is no question that Romyda's collections are glamorous and stylish and most importantly for any designer selling in more than two continents, Romyda's designs are accessible. It joins the East and the West seamlessly, a growing quality of the contemporary that has become quite admirable. This idea that we are slowly becoming more and more open, that we are slowly breaking boundaries and celebrating not just nationalities but being one people.

Stand Up! Speak Out!

THE WORLD will be celebrating Stand Up & Speak Out on Oct. 17 to help eradicate poverty, injustice, and inequality and to demand that the government keeps the promises they have made to their people. 189 country heads committed in September 2000 at the Millennium Summit to work together and build a safer, more prosperous and Equitable world for all by 2015. To participate in Stand Up & Speak Out, take 2 minutes to recite the pledge at any time or place on the 17th of October and to record the moment for it to be counted with the rest of the world. To buy Stand Up & Speak Out materials and a copy of the pledge, and for more information on how to take a part in this world wide call for action, e-mail Central Projects Department, The Art of Living International Center, Bangalore, standupaolunmc@gmail.com or visit the website at www.standagainstpoverty.org.

COME AND HAVE A MAGNIFICENT TIME AT

Shangri-La Plaza®

CELEBRATES HALLOWEEN WITH A

FUN-TASTIC MASQUERADE BALL

OCTOBER 27, 2007 • 1PM
GRAND ATRIUM (LEVEL 2)

[illegible] FANCY COSTUMES AND MASKS
COME FOR TRICK OR TREAT

Join us for this [illegible] Halloween extravaganza [illegible] Fun-tastic world [illegible] fantasy with gargantuan [illegible] mesmerizing [illegible] world-class juggling! And [illegible] around [illegible] amazing [illegible] performances [illegible]

HOW TO JOIN:

- Open to kids from ages 1 to 12 years who come in Halloween costume.
- Registration of P350 is required.
- Registration period starts on October 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Shangri-La Plaza Administration Office at Level 5.
- Only the first 225 registrants will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- No refund for no-show participants.

HURRY! COME TO THE SHANGRI-LA THIS OCTOBER
TO ENJOY A SPELLBINDING SHOPPING
AND LEISURE EXPERIENCE

Kodak Congratulates the Big Winners of Print It. Show It. Promo!

Over 500 Winners won Kodak prizes - including Kodak EasyShare digital cameras.

Kodak EasyShare V803 Winners: Lacson, Rubylyn *Calamba City, Laguna* • Manaran, Janalyn *CDO* • Ver, Daisy Lyne C. *Cainta, Rizal* **Kodak 8R Photobook Winners:** Agra, Beverly *Malate, Manila* • Agravante, Leticia *Cebu City* • Alaban, Cynthia *Bulacan* • Aloyan, Leodevico M. *Pangasinan* • Alvarez, Imelda Q. *Laguna* • Apellido, Noreline M. *Pangasinan* • Bablua, Josephine Abueg *Marikina City* • Balbin, Juvy *Manila* • Bambilla, Leslie Mae Litam *Parañaque* • Bangkil, Ma. Belinda T. *Batangas* • Bau, Alvin S. *Lubao, Pampanga* • Bautista, Mylah V. *SCC Pangasinan* • Bontogon, Andrew *Cavite* • Cañares, Marietta *Cebu* • Candia, Alina Marie *Lapulapu City* • Castillo, Kaye *Bulacan* • Castillo, Marites M. *Cavite* • Cayabyab, Mylyn *San Juan City* • Chan, Marites *San Juan City* • Chavez, Rey N. *Manila* • Chua, Katherine *Quezon City* • Chua, Michael *Manila* • Cu, Christina L. *Manila* • De Guzman, Adelaida L. *Bulacan* • De Guzman, Marie Fe *Makati City* • De Villa, Lilibeth *Batangas* • Dela Calzada, John Rey *C.C.* • Dela Cruz, Grace *Pangasinan* • Diaz, Danny A. *Cebu City* • Dimaunahan, Leticia O. *Rizal* • Dulguime, Renato L. *Manila* • Dumangas, Julie N. *Rizal* • Dumaran, Mary Ann E. *Cebu City* • Ebdane, Sarah L. *Pangasinan* • Endetepa, Marilou C. *Batangas* • Englis, Kathleen R. *Cebu* • Espiritu, Ivy *Bulacan* • Eustaquio, Nica *Quezon City* • Fletcher, Dories P. *Toledo City* • Gallia, Ismael *Laguna* • Garcia, Francisco *Cebu City* • Garcia, George A. *Taguig City* • Garcia, Gina *San Juan City* • Gindap, John Paul *Makati City* • Golingay, Ervin Red H. *Cavite* • Gregorio, Imelda *Bulacan* • Hermida, Ma. Christina L. *Marikina* • Huan, Eileen Judith Anne A. *Cebu City* • Keung, Gaw Chi *Manila* • Lam, Evangeline *Pasay City* • Larong, Suzette R. *Cebu City* • Lavendia, Marelo A. *Quezon City* • Lhing, Lourdes C. *Pasig City* • Lopez, Agnes T. *Pangasinan* • Lu, Mark Daniel L. *Parañaque City* • Macalino, Jasmin *Laguna* • Mamangon, Cristine *Caloocan City* • Manalg, Evangeline F. *Pasig City* • Mandac, Jesusa *Cavite* • Manual, Arthur *Batangas* • Marim, Jonalane L. *Pasig City* • Molina, Mary Vonn M. *Pasig City* • Natich, Sheila Lougene *Bacolod* • Natividad, Montealto *Mandaue City* • Obina, Julio *Mandaluyong City* • Olga, Lea *Pasig City* • Olimpo, Roy Q. *Pangasinan* • Ong, Relia M. *Mexico, Pampanga* • Ortaleza, Maricar S. *Meycuayan, Bulacan* • Pablo, Sheila B. *Cabuyao, Laguna* • Pangilinan, Robert *San Juan City* • Pasia, Michelle G. *Batangas* • Pavidol, Jennifer *Makati City* • Quijano, Lichelle Grace C. *Manila* • Ramirez, Rodelyn *Rizal* • Ramos, Ofelia T. *Marilao* • Razon, Patrick William *Pampanga* • Regala, Troy *Pampanga* • Reyes, Eden *San Juan City* • Reyes, Elizabeth R. *Antipolo City* • Rojo, Elmira C. *Marikina City* • Roxas, Alfredo *San Juan City* • San Andres, Erika Lee FG. *Marikina City* • Sandique, Gilda F. *Quezon City* • Santos, Geraldine L. *Marikina City* • Santos, Rhea Z. *Bulacan* • Simara, Marytess D. *Batangas* • Soriano, Ma. Leah L. *Pasay City* • Stowe, Maricel *Canlubang* • Suzuki, Takeshi R. *Cebu City* • Tabusaes, Linda *Rizal* • Tan, Jenny Chan *Mandaluyong City* • Tan, Rosalina R. *Quezon City* • Tibus, Jezrel *Las Piñas City* • Torio, Melinda S. *Caloocan City* • Uy, Ethel Queenie C. *Quezon City* • Vasquez, Mary Joy S. *Pasig City* • Venturia, Arvee *Quezon City* • Vera Cruz, Teodora P. *Parañaque City* • Viado, Edwin C. *Pasig*

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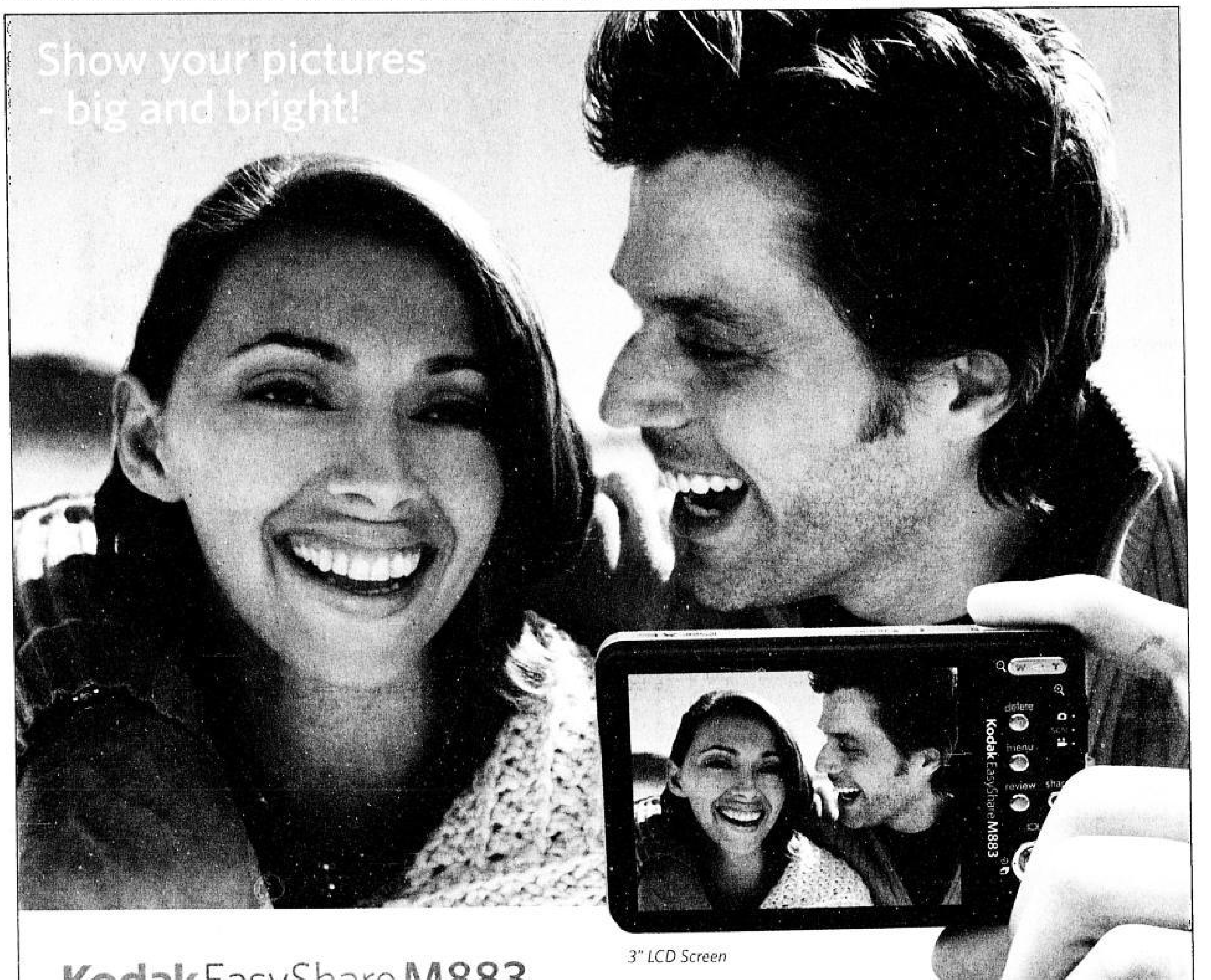

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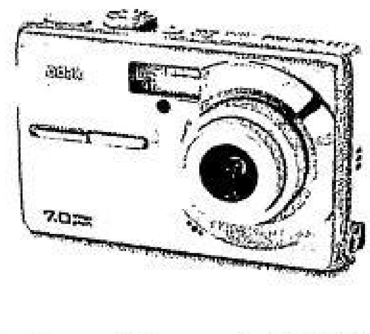

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Wholesome, hard-working comers top 'hottest stars' survey

JOHANSSON. Work experience over sex appeal.

LOS ANGELES—WHO NEEDS SEXY? In Hollywood these days, it is fast becoming apparent that wholesome and hard-working are truly what's "hot."

AOL's film-oriented website, Moviefone, recently unveiled a list of the 25 hottest movie stars under 25 years old, as picked by industry executives who valued work experience and future prospects over sex appeal and celebrity.

Listen up, Lindsay Lohan wannabes: It helped if you stayed out of trouble!

The list includes the popular stars of the summer movie musical, "Hairspray," Zac Efron and Elijah Kelley, and Oscar-nominated actress Keira Knightley.

List

There are well-known stars like Scarlett Johansson and up-and-comers such as Ellen Page. "Superbad's" super geeks, Michael Cera and Jonah Hill, also made the list.

"We were trying to come up with a list that was fairly balanced, and featured people leading the charge," explained Scott Robson, editor in chief of Moviefone. "What I really like is, how diverse it is, with a wide range of young talent—not just hot teen stars."

Robson said Moviefone spoke with numerous Hollywood executives to create a broad list of talent, then narrowed the judges to a panel including actor Michael Douglas, director Jason Reitman ("Thank You for Smoking")

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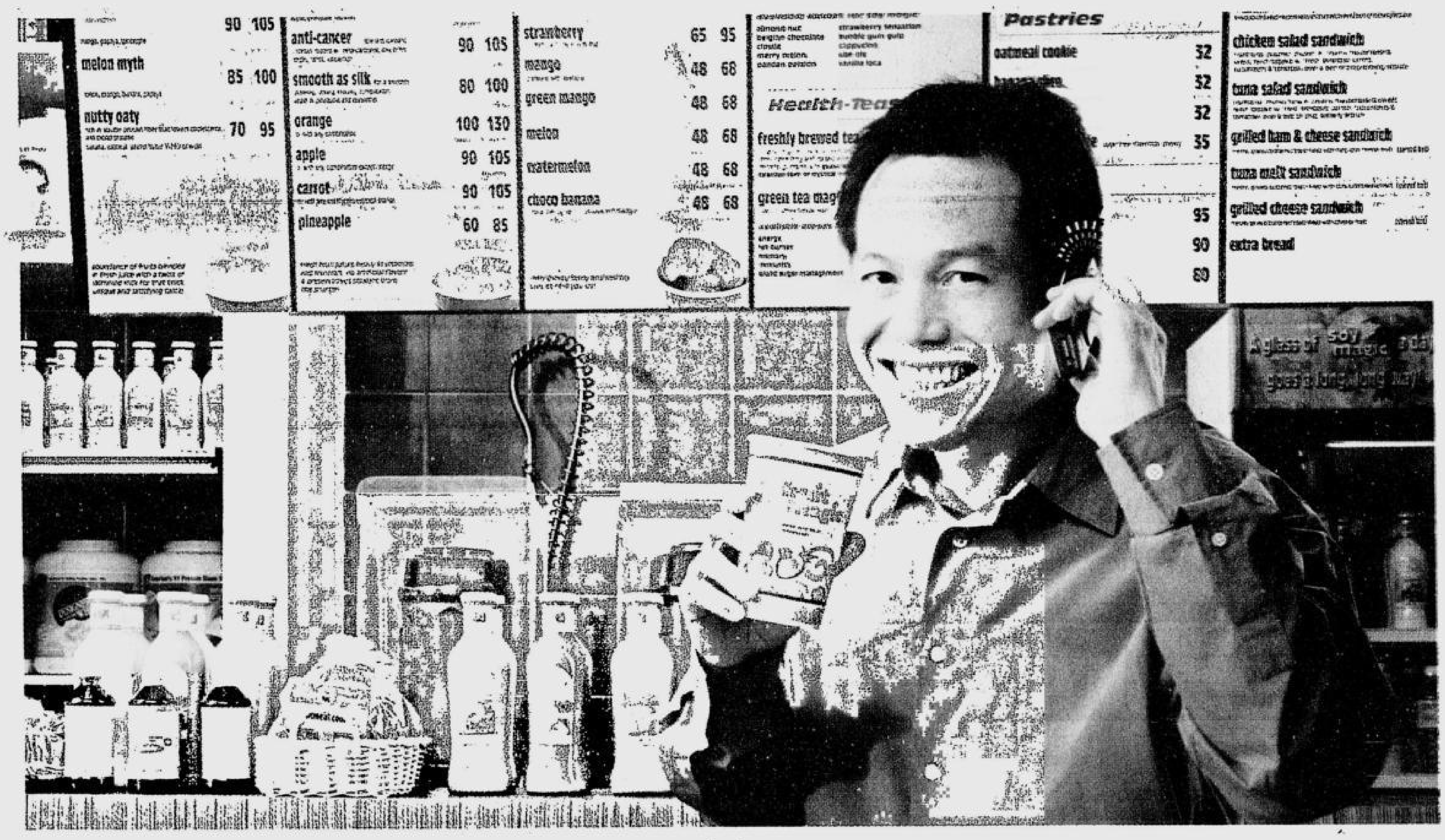

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Dr. Alan Escalona, President & CEO, Fruit Magic

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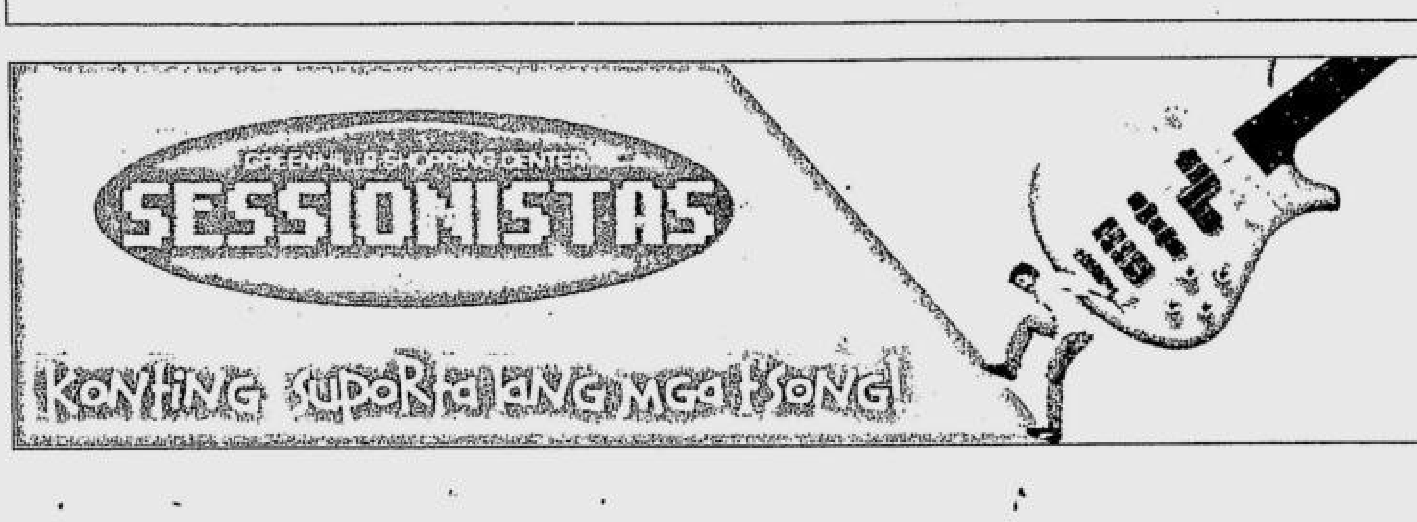

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The Launch Party on Oct. 19 featuring Julianne, Sinosikat? & Freestyle

Jam Sessions on Oct. 26 with Julianne - Nov. 09 with Stonefree

Night Market Area

Sessionistas Showdown on Nov. 17 with Sinosikat?

Grand Concert on Nov. 23 with Freestyle

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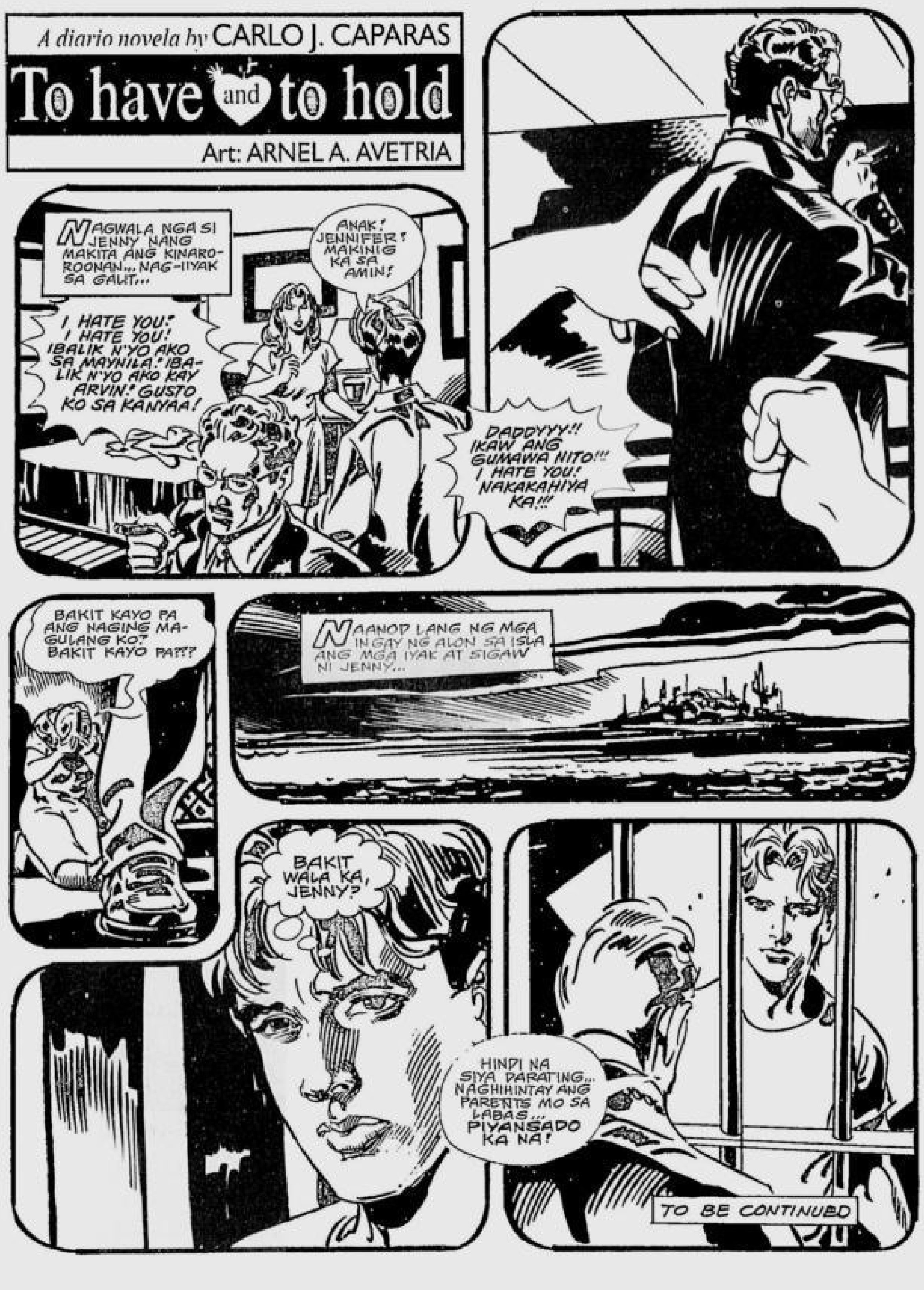
SMART THE POWER TO LEAD · Coca-Cola light · Universal · WADE

GREENHILLS Shop & Feel

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

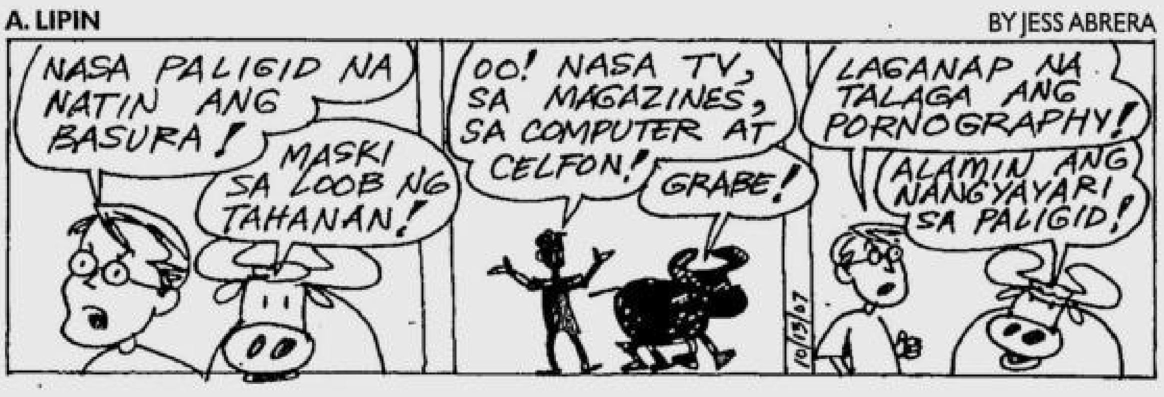
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


NAGWALA NGA SI JENNY NANG MAKITA ANG KINARO-ROONAN... NAG-IIYAK SA GALIT...
ANAK! JENNIFER! MAKINIG KA SA AMIN!
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU! IBALIK N'YO AKO SA MAYNILA! IBA-LIK N'YO AKO KAY ARVIN! GUSTO KO SA KANYAA!
DADDYYY!! IKAW ANG GUMAWA NITO!!! I HATE YOU! NAKAKAHIYA KA!!!
BAKIT KAYO PA ANG NAGING MA-GULANG KO? BAKIT KAYO PA???
NAANOD LANG NG MGA INGAY NG ALON SA ISLA ANG MGA IYAK AT SIGAW NI JENNY...
BAKIT WALA KA, JENNY?
HINDI NA SIYA DARATING... NAGHIHINTAY ANG PARENTS MO SA LABAS... PIYANSADO KA NA!
TO BE CONTINUED

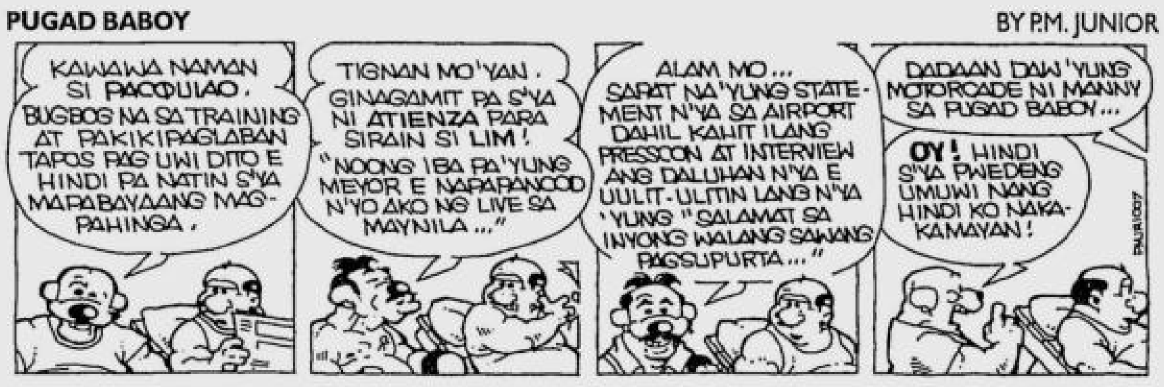
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NASA PALIGID NA NATIN ANG BASURA!
MASKI SA LOOB NG TAHANAN!
OO! NASA TV, SA MAGAZINES, SA COMPUTER AT CELFON!
GRABE!
10/13/07
LAGANAP NA TALAGA ANG PORNOGRAPHY!
ALAMIN ANG NANGYAYARI SA PALIGID!

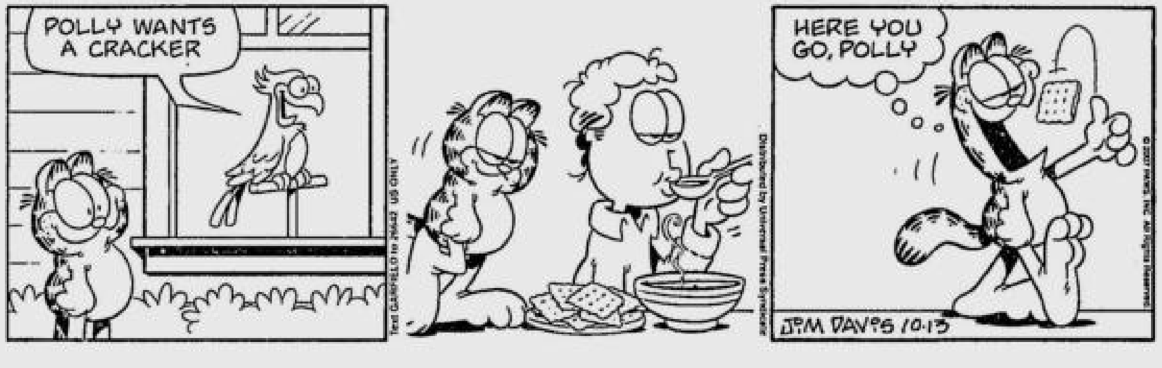
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAWAWA NAMAN SI PACQUIAO. BUGBOG NA SA TRAINING AT PAKIKIPAGLABAN TAPOS PAG UWI DITO E HINDI PA NATIN S'YA MAPABAYAANG MAG-PAHINGA.
TIGNAN MO'YAN. GINAGAMIT PA S'YA NI ATIENZA PARA SIRAIN SI LIM! "NOONG IBA PA'YUNG MEYOR E NAPAPANOOD N'YO AKO NG LIVE SA MAYNILA..."
ALAM MO... SARAT NA'YUNG STATE-MENT N'YA SA AIRPORT DAHIL KAHIT ILANG PRESSCON AT INTERVIEW ANG DALUHAN N'YA E UULIT-ULITIN LANG N'YA 'YUNG "SALAMAT SA INYONG WALANG SAWANG PAGSUPURTA..."
DADAAN DAW 'YUNG MOTORCADE NI MANNY SA PUGAD BABOY...
OY! HINDI S'YA PWEDENG UMUWI NANG HINDI KO NAKA-KAMAYAN!
PAJR1007

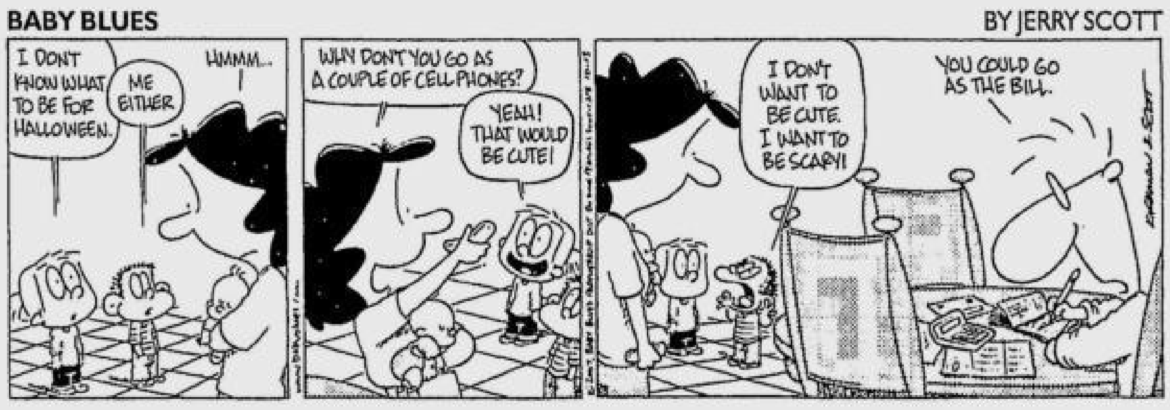
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


POLLY WANTS A CRACKER
HERE YOU GO, POLLY
JIM DAVIS 10-13

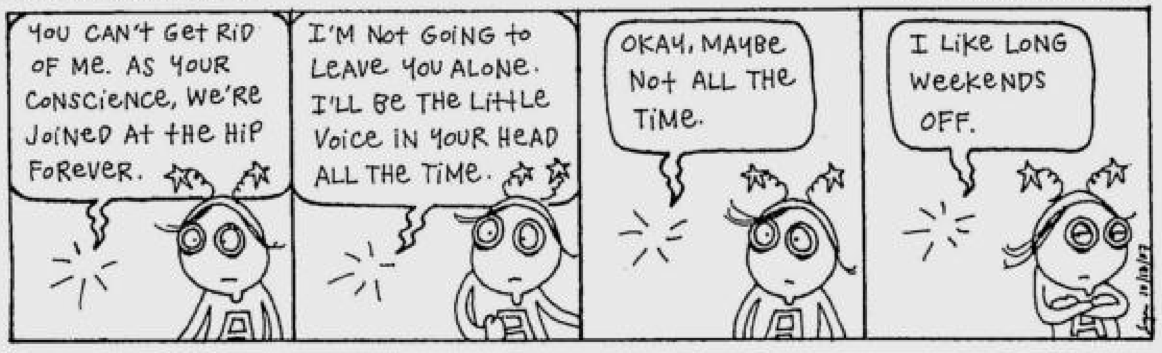
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I DONT KNOW WHAT TO BE FOR HALLOWEEN.
ME EITHER
HMMM...
WHY DONT YOU GO AS A COUPLE OF CELL PHONES?
YEAH! THAT WOULD BE CUTE!
I DON'T WANT TO BE CUTE. I WANT TO BE SCARY!
YOU COULD GO AS THE BILL.

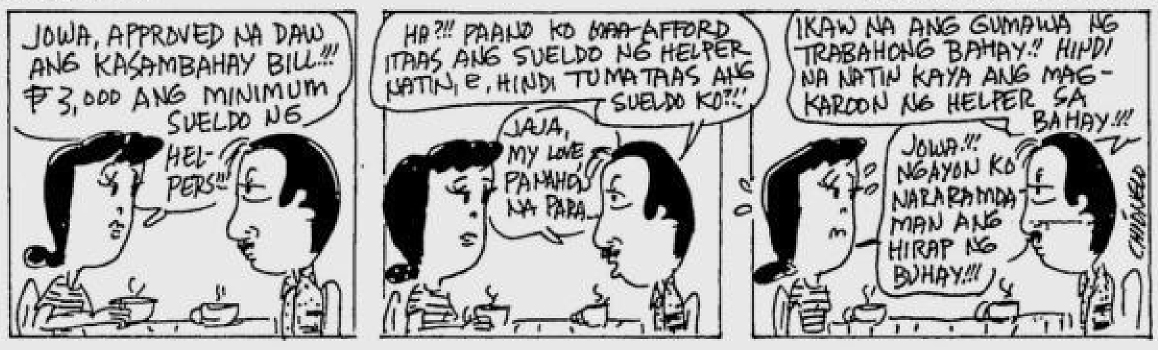
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU CAN'T GET RID OF ME. AS YOUR CONSCIENCE, WE'RE JOINED AT THE HIP FOREVER.
I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU ALONE. I'LL BE THE LITTLE VOICE IN YOUR HEAD ALL THE TIME.
OKAY, MAYBE NOT ALL THE TIME.
I LIKE LONG WEEKENDS OFF.

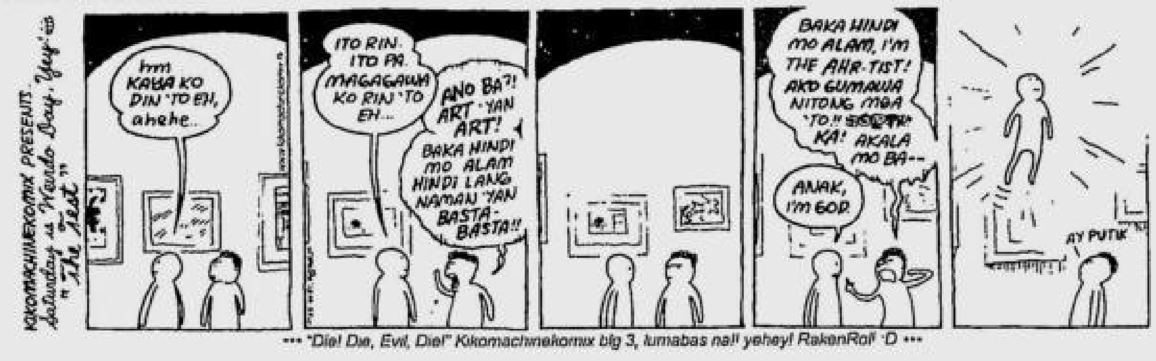
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, APPROVED NA DAW ANG KASAMBAHAY BILL!!! ₱3,000 ANG MINIMUM SUELDO NG HEL-PERS!!
HA?!! PAANO KO ~~MAA-AFFORD~~ ITAAS ANG SUELDO NG HELPER NATIN, E, HINDI TUMATAAS ANG SUELDO KO?!!
JAJA, MY LOVE PAMAHO NA PARA...
IKAW NA ANG GUMAWA NG TRABAHONG BAHAY!! HINDI NA NATIN KAYA ANG MAG-KAROON NG HELPER SA BAHAY!!!
JOWA!!! NGAYON KO NARARAMDAMAN ANG HIRAP NG BUHAY!!!
CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE

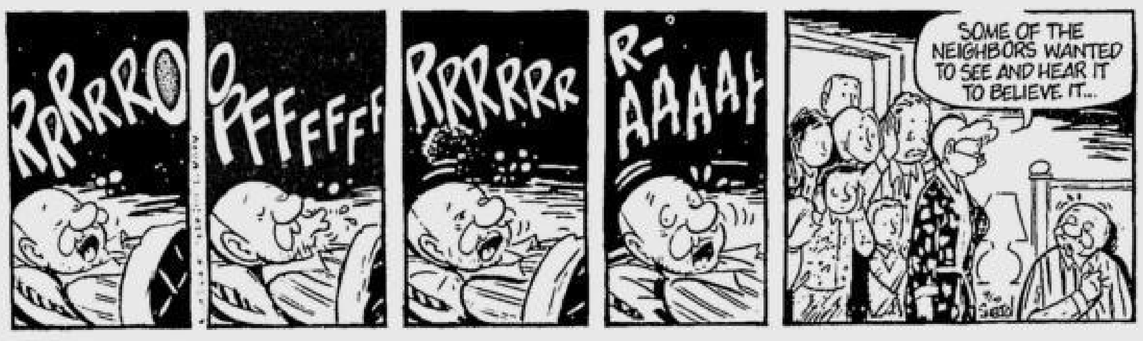
BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS: Saturday is Weirdo Day. Yey! "The Test"
hm KAYA KO DIN 'TO EH, ahehe..
ITO RIN. ITO PA. MAGAGAWA KO RIN 'TO EH...
ANO BA?! ART 'YAN ART! BAKA HINDI MO ALAM HINDI LANG NAMAN 'YAN BASTA-BASTA!!
BAKA HINDI MO ALAM, I'M THE AHR-TIST! AKO GUMAWA NITONG MGA 'TO!! ~~SORRY~~ KA! AKALA MO BA--
ANAK, I'M GOD.
AY PUTIK

*** "Die! Die, Evil, Die!" Kikomachinekomix blg 3, lumabas na!! yehey! RakenRol! :D ***

BEN

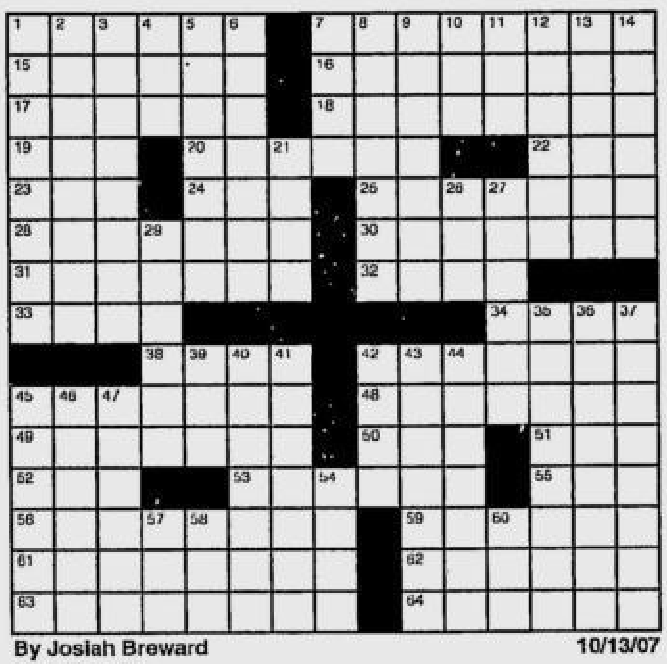
BY DANIEL SHELTON


RRRRRO
OPFFFFFF
RRRRRR
R-AAAAH
SOME OF THE NEIGHBORS WANTED TO SEE AND HEAR IT TO BELIEVE IT...

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Black currant liqueur
7 Neighbor of Panama
15 Star in the Big Dipper
16 Editorial comments
17 Comic Gilda
18 Fatal as poison
19 Writer Burrows
20 Matures
22 Cycle starter?
23 Besmirch
24 Gardner of filmdom
25 Naval builders
28 Sent forth
30 Superlatively spooky
31 Produces foam
32 Summertime coolers
33 Dunfermline dagger
34 Laughter sounds
38 Vidal's "__ Breckinridge"
42 Dons judge's garb
45 Alternative to a painter, perhaps
48 Resumes business
49 Jackie's Aristotle
50 Sot's shakes
51 Trevi fountain coin count
52 Verse opener?
53 Three _ _ to the wind
55 Herndon and Cobb
56 Emotional disorder
59 Tags
61 Slingshot
62 Menu item
63 Top vote getters
64 Immerses

DOWN
1 Chewy candies
2 Montgomery man
3 Ore of iron
4 Male descendant
5 Repeat
6 Sargent or Pam
7 Small harbor
8 Mid-ocean
9 Drying agent obtained from flax
10 Lennon's love
11 Primly demure
12 Knitted baby shoe
13 Habituates
14 Give help to
21 Beatnik abodes
26 "__ You Experienced?"
27 Chess piece
29 Classroom essays
35 Felons' friends
36 "Light-Horse Harry" of the Amer. Rev.
37 Evaluates
39 Mos. and mos.
40 Publish once again
41 Armenian-born painter Gorky
42 "Das Lied von der __"
43 Vexed
44 Brazzi of "South Pacific"
45 Attack like a cat
46 Temper, as metal
47 "Ghost Dance" tribe
54 Guessed figs.
57 AAA, in the U.K.
58 Choose (to)
60 A/C meas.



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

10/13/07

Friday's Puzzle Solved

D	R	U	G	■	M	A	M	A	■	A	M	I	T	Y
N	A	P	E	■	E	L	I	S	■	R	E	N	E	E
A	N	I	M	A	L	I	N	S	T	I	N	C	T	S
■	■	■	■	L	O	V	E	■	U	S	S	■	■	■
C	O	L	O	G	N	E	■	B	R	E	A	T	H	E
A	L	A	M	O	S	■	L	E	T	S	■	R	A	W
D	I	V	E	R	■	D	I	L	L	■	C	O	P	E
■	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	O	U	P	■
L	I	R	A	■	H	I	E	S	■	T	I	B	I	A
E	E	N	■	S	E	L	L	■	G	E	L	L	E	D
G	R	E	A	T	L	Y	■	P	U	R	S	E	R	S
■	■	■	R	U	M	■	E	R	L	E	■	■	■	■
M	I	N	E	R	A	L	D	E	P	O	S	I	T	S
A	M	E	N	D	■	A	G	E	E	■	I	D	L	E
N	O	W	A	Y	■	B	E	N	D	■	T	A	C	T

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10/13/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You understand the human condition and use satire to comment on it. You're direct, even blunt if need be. (You can be tough.) Many of you have strong technical skills for something. You set high standards for yourself and drive yourself to achieve your goals. The year ahead could involve a major change, perhaps as significant as something that happened around 1999.

Birthdate of: Sacha Baron Cohen, comedian/actor; Kelly Preston, actress; Lenny Bruce, comedian.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): If you have any tasks to do today, get down to it. You don't feel frivolous today. You just want to get the job done. (And that's just fine.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't worry if relations with romantic partners or your style of relating to children seem to be stilted or stiff today. The planets are not as friendly as usual.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be patient with family members today. People feel guarded and cautious. Don't expect too much from others today, especially at home.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Conversations with others, especially siblings and relatives, might feel a bit restrained or stiff today. That's OK. The whole world is feeling a bit this way today. (It's no big deal.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Why is there always so much month left at the end of the money? That's how it might feel to you today. Don't worry; this is a temporary dark cloud on your horizon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Relations with those who are closest to you might feel disappointing today. But you are probably as withdrawn as others. It's just the way the cookie crumbles today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's easy to feel sad, lonely or cut off from others today. Don't take this seriously. Millions are feeling this way today. You are not alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): A friend or someone older than you might disappoint you. Perhaps you expected friendlier treatment? Don't take this seriously—people feel remote and aloof today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a poor day to talk to your boss about anything that you want. Don't ask for permission or endorsement. Play it very low key.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't be discouraged if travel plans or anything related to school, medicine and the law look a bit bleak. Things will change quite quickly in a few days.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The financial or practical help you were expecting from others might not be forthcoming today. However, in a few days, things could change for the better.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is not a good day for serious conversations with partners and close friends. People are reluctant to open up. Everyone is worried about having something to lose.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

							6	4
	1	2	9	6				5
	9		3					
	4	7						
	6			9			3	
						8	9	
					7		8	
3				4	2	5	1	
1	2							

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/13

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	6	8	7	1	5	4	9
4	7	9	5	6	3	2	1	8
1	8	5	4	2	9	3	6	7
5	4	8	7	3	6	9	2	1
7	6	1	2	9	8	4	3	5
2	9	3	1	5	4	8	7	6
8	5	4	6	1	2	7	9	3
9	1	2	3	8	7	6	5	4
6	3	7	9	4	5	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/12

For Pete Roa's sake

By Nestor U. Torre

PETE ROA PASSED AWAY ON AUG. 9, BUT the goals and principles he stood for live on in the hearts of his family, friends and colleagues.

Even better, they have now come together to put up a foundation to further those objectives and principles in specific and palpable terms.

Memorial fund

At Pete's 40th day commemoration last Sept. 17 at the St. Padre Pio Shrine near Eastwood City, Quezon City, Boots Anson-Roa, Pete's loving widow, gratified everyone present by sharing, "At the instance of my son-in-law, Antipolo Congressman Robbie Puno, the family has decided to establish a memorial fund for Pete."

She went on to share that, at his deathbed, Pete was asked by Robbie what he wanted the fund to be earmarked for. Pete replied: "Make it available to those in need."

Taking their cue from Pete's lead, his loved ones were reminded in particular of his soft spot for continuing broadcast education, the plight of stroke victims like him, and the propagation of devotion to St. "Padre" Pio, who had nurtured his faith after he had fallen seriously ill.

Boots went into specifics: "My children have decided to evolve the fund into a continuing concern—the Prime (Pete Roa Integral Media Endeavor) Foundation. The board will include prominent media practitioners of unquestioned integrity whose lives Pete touched.

"We aim to uphold the fund's original mandate with three initial projects: A play about Padre Pio's inspiring life, a lecture series on broadcast education through the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas, and an adjunct program for the stroke patients of the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation." The play on Padre Pio will be staged starting Jan. 16, 2008, Pete's birthday.

Friends

Pete and Boots' friends were gratified to learn that the Prime Foundation would sustain their late colleague's endeavors through the years.

During the reception after Holy Mass, we shared our personal recollections about Pete's many kindnesses through the years—how he had helped launch our TV career *via* "Two for the Road" and other shows, our actor-director involvement in theater, and the much-needed assistance he provided to both new and veteran entertainers.

ROA. Soft spot for continuing broadcast education, the plight of stroke victims, and the propagation of devotion to St. "Padre" Pio. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Our last involvement with Pete before he was sidelined by his many illnesses was in the area of media education. Under the auspices of the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines, we flew to Cebu City to conduct a screenwriting workshop.

Invaluable

Pete's help was invaluable, because he met with different city and school officials to generate interest in the workshop, and to single out the best possible workshoppers.

Under Pete's supervision, the workshop turned out to be very productive, and even produced a winner in the nationwide screenwriting competition that the foundation held the following year.

People interested in helping the Prime Foundation achieve its laudable objectives are invited to contact Josephine de Veyra at telefax no. 928-6816 and (925) 415-9224.

The CompanY in big band concert tonight

THE ENDURING AND versatile quintet, The CompanY, joins forces with the UP Jazz Ensemble in their big band concert at the CCP Main Theater tonight, "Let's Kick Some BrASS."

Repertoire

The show features a 19-piece band and a new repertoire that runs the gamut of musical genres that combine vocal harmony with a sonic wall of brasses.

Act One showcases jazz, standards, wing, classical and *a capella* music, while Act Two tackles rock, house, rhythm and blues, Motown, jazz fusion, Latin, novelty, OPM and mainstream pop.

The show is written and directed by Moy Ortiz. The gala performance is sponsored by PLDT, Budget Card, CleanKing, Viva Records, Danilo Franco, Arnel Papa Jewelry, Backroom Inc., La Aplaya, RaiRai Ken, Crossover 105.1, Dream FM 106.7, and 96.3 WRock.

Concert highlights includes a bebop and scat version of "Boom Tarat-Tarat," Dizzy Gillespie's "A Night in Tunisia," a comedic vocalese rendition of Phillip Soussa's marches, and a boogie arrangement of the APO's "Ang Lumang Tugtugin."

Tickets are available at National Bookstore and the CCP box office, or log on to ticketworld.com

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AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

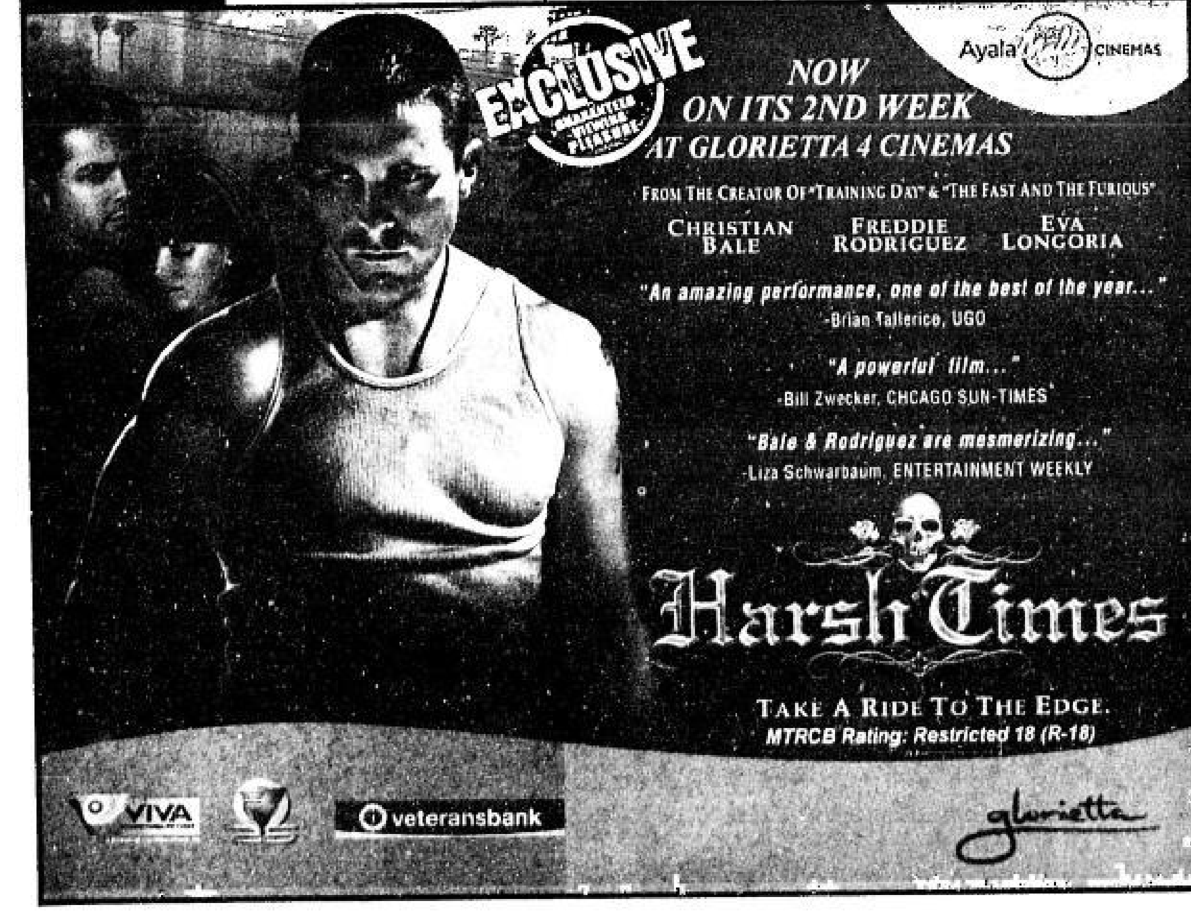
GLORIETTA 1	1 KUNG FU FIGHTER	2 STARDUST	3 RETRIBUTION	4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT			
GLORIETTA 4	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 NO RESERVATIONS	3 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	4 WEDDING DAZE	5 THE 11TH HOUR	6 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	7 HARSH TIMES
GREENBELT 1	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 STARDUST					
GREENBELT 3	1 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS	3 DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX STARDUST	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	4 RETRIBUTION	5 KUNG FU FIGHTER		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 STARDUST	2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 RETRIBUTION	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	4 STARDUST	5 KUNG FU FIGHTER		
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 RETRIBUTION	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RETRIBUTION	6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	7 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1660
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	The Click Five! ... America's Best Power Pop Band October 14; 6 PM; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Automadness Exhibit October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Nescafe: Soundskool October 13; Activity Center
Glorietta Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Rhythm Academy: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino October 17; 6 PM; Activity Center


EXCLUSIVE
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
FROM THE CREATOR OF "TRAINING DAY" & "THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS"
CHRISTIAN BALE FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ EVA LONGORIA
"An amazing performance, one of the best of the year..."
-Brian Tallerico, UGO
"A powerful film..."
-Bill Zwecker, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
"Bale & Rodriguez are mesmerizing..."
-Liza Schwarbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
Harsh Times
TAKE A RIDE TO THE EDGE.
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
VIVA veteransbank glorietta

America's Best Power Pop Band
live at the Ayala Malls!
THE CLICK FIVE

TriNoma
Activity Center
October 12, 2007
7PM
Concierge hotline:
901-3000

Greenbelt 3 Cinema 1
October 13, 2007
7PM
Concierge hotline:
757-4053

Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
October 14, 2007
6PM
Concierge hotline:
842-2782 / 7721860

myx RX 93.1
GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

DiCaprio's riveting docu calls for immediate action

By Noelani Torre

DICAPRIO. Narrates and produces "The 11th Hour."

NOBODY LIKES BEING LECTURED AT, EVEN if it's by Leonardo DiCaprio—and especially not when one is at the movies. But, there are times when a strongly-worded lecture is exactly what's called for. And there are strong words indeed in the dire environmental documentary, "The 11th Hour," which, though produced and narrated by a Hollywood celebrity, is as serious and frightening as a heart attack—and it requires the same attention!

Those who saw last year's Oscar-winning documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," might wonder whether this film is any different from the Al Gore starrer. Well, it is.

The difference is in the scope: While "An Inconvenient Truth" focused on global warming and climate change, "The 11th Hour" takes a broader look at the ever-growing, toxic footprint humans have made on an increasingly ailing planet.

Issues

You'll no doubt be familiar with the issues that the docu is talking about. Among them are global warming and climate change, as well as soil degradation, air and ocean pollution, and the rapid extinction of species. It's a bleak list, and the film, helmed by sister-directors, Leila Conners-Petersen and Nadia Conners, makes no bones about how bad things are today.

As a film, the docu isn't particularly enjoyable—and it's not meant to be, but it will keep you riveted. It's also less polite than "An Inconvenient Truth" and has more than one talking head in it.

There are, in fact, more than 50 earnest speakers, and their gloomy predictions paint such a bleak picture of the present state of the planet's—and our—health that, for the movie's first half, you'll feel quite depressed.

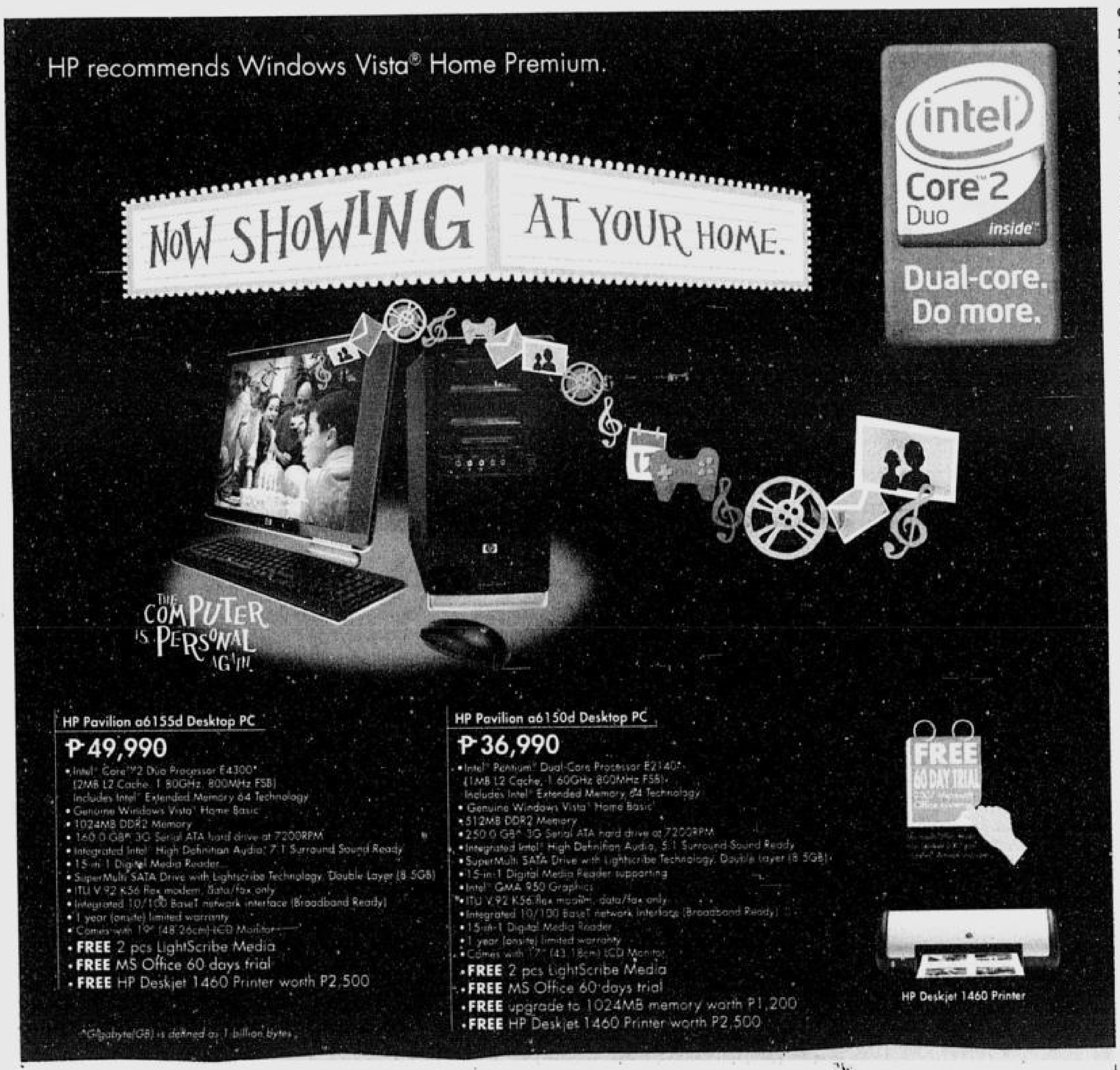
Toward the end of the harrowing sequence of statements and images, however, the mood lightens. The film throws its disheartened viewers a lifesaver in the form of sustainable, renewable solutions to this "convergence of crises," giving us a glimpse of a carbon-neutral, waste-free future—where homes and buildings don't bleed the environment dry.

Resource speakers

"The 11th Hour" assembles an overwhelming number of resource speakers: Former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, former CIA director R. James Woolse, theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, scientist David Suzuki, environmental architect William McDonough, and a host of ecologists, entrepreneurs, oceanographers, engineers, authors and eco-activists.

Viewers might find them wearying, but there's much to be gleaned here if you pay attention. Facts and opinions are delivered concisely, and the editing keeps everything moving at a brisk clip—sometimes, too brisk—so, there's no excuse to be bored.

Yes, it's dark and gloomy, but we need movies like "The 11th Hour," because in spite of all the whistle-blowing that's been going on, many of us still seem to think that the environment is the other guy's problem. Fact is, it's now *our* 11th hour—and we don't have time to waste!



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PFEIFFER AND DE NIRO. Tongue-in-cheek wit and wacky comic streak.

NOW SHOWING

De Niro, Pfeiffer spark cinematic magic in romantic fantasy

By Rito P. Asilo

"Stardust"

D: Matthew Vaughn
S: Claire Danes, Charlie Cox

IN MATTHEW VAUGHN'S BIG-screen adaptation of Neil Gaiman's fantasy novel, Michelle Pfeiffer once again displays her wacky comic streak as Lamia, one of three conspiring witches who must find a mystical star that would bring back their long-lost youthful beauty. For the listless, wicked sorceress, four centuries of waiting is more than enough!

But, it's Robert De Niro who gets the most laughs as Captain Shakespeare, a swashbuckling but closeted gay pirate who helps love-struck 18-year-old Tristan Thorne (Charlie Cox) on his arduous quest to retrieve Yvaine (Claire Danes), a fallen star now magically transformed into its human incarnation. He needs the star to win Victoria (Sienna Miller), the lovely but snooty maiden—who gives him only one week to complete his task.

Tristan's journey beyond the guarded walls of his confined English village brings him to an enchanted kingdom led by King Stormhold (Peter O'Toole) and his seven cunning and scheming sons (among them Jason Flemyng and Rupert Everett)—who conspire to kill one another for the aging monarch's coveted crown!

Propelled by Ian McKellen's engaging narration, the film's sharp, tongue-in-cheek wit and its sophisticated sci-fi flourish, Vaughn craftily maneuvers a cluttered but diverting piece of romantic mush coated in fantasy and allegory.

But, the tone and storytelling style of this darkly entertaining fairytale will be appreciated by grown-ups more than by kids.

Unfortunately, directorial execution is one thing, and right casting is quite another: Danes, to say the least, is sadly miscast.

Granted, she tries her best to put luster and verve into her cinematic alter ego, but her participation is largely compromised by her somewhat sharp facial features, so she never quite engages the viewer's interest and sympathy.

The character of Yvaine, after all, requires the stellar glow of Uma Thurman (remember Terry Gilliam's "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen"?).

Yes, it's great to see actors transcend their limitations or the physical requirements of a role—but when they don't, no amount of well-placed lighting or good foundation will make up for the slack.

Happily, the rest of the cast delivers spot-on performances: They dig up comic gold from Gaiman's material—its cheeky, adult humor is served well by the delightful De Niro, the irreverent Ricky Gervais (in a short but raucous cameo), the doe-eyed Cox, and Pfeiffer, who scorches the screen with her wicked insolence!

Learning from bees

LOTUS POND

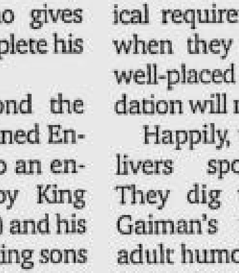
R. Valencia and S. Bismark

IF BEES CAN WATCH OVER their colonies to assure survival, man should do better. Let's learn from them:

1. Do your part. Don't act like you're the queen.
2. Work hard for the bigger cause; serve the master and the well-being of the whole community.
3. Work as a team and live in peace.
4. If you are busy as a bee, leave no time for useless activity. Time wasters include idle talk, gossip, speculation and addictions like gambling and intoxication.
5. Every member of the colony contributes to the well-being of the group.
6. Bees work hard to keep themselves and their colonies clean. You won't find them polluting their own colonies.
7. Determination is needed for success.
8. If you work hard, the results are sweet!

Wholesome...

From page F1



BARTON. Her star's on the rise.

and producer Akiva Goldsman ("Mr. & Mrs. Smith"). Altogether, the panel had 13 members choosing the final 25 "hot" actors and actresses.

Last year, Lohan was among the hottest young film talents in Hollywood, following strong performances in the Robert Altman film, "A Prairie Home Companion," and Emilio Estevez's "Bobby."

But, earlier this year, her hard-partying ways caused her to run afoul with the law and end up in rehab. Her two most recent movies, "Georgia Rule" and "I Know Who Killed Me," flopped.

For now, Hollywood seems to have turned a cold shoulder on Lohan when it comes to must-hire movie actresses. "We did canvas a lot of film executives, and Lindsay Lohan was *not* a name that was bubbling up," Robson shared.

But, Mischa Barton was. She has eight films coming out over the next year and a half, and she's drawing some very strong notices in the industry. *Reuters*

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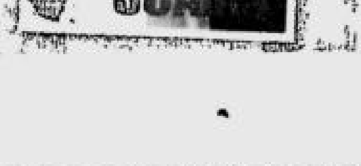


Duvall calls Joaquin 'Wacko Phoenix'

PHOENIX. "The only time I go home concerned about work is when I think about the choices I made as an actor." RUBEN V. NEPALES

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"I WONDER WHICH Joaquin Phoenix we're going to get?" A colleague mulled over which side of the brilliant but moody actor would be on display during our interview. We've seen the quiet, almost aloof Joaquin, but we've also had the animated, fun and joking Joaquin.

Fortunately, the latter showed up at our recent press con in New York. Joaquin laughed and answered with wit and candor when he was asked about being called "Wacko Phoenix" by Robert Duvall, who plays his estranged father in the crime thriller, "We Own the Night."

Restless energy

The Golden Globe winner ("Walk the Line") was a bundle of restless energy. He lit up a Camel cigarette, swung his arms, folded the table cloth and drew circles on it with his fingers, and scratched the back of his ear and his arm.

Thankfully, this was not a dude who came looking like he was dressed to immaculate Ken (Barbie) perfection by some stylist. He arrived with his wild, curly hair un-styled, dressed in clothes that looked like he just grabbed them from the closet.

"I feel stupid talking about this stuff," he blurted at one point, when he was asked about his "acting process." The actor, noted for his intense dark eyes, was reluctant to talk about acting, but when he did, his answers and insights were refreshing and non-generic. We think, though, that he beat Russell Crowe and Colin Farrell in the number of times he said the "F" word.

The press con was for "Reservation Road," a drama about two families, whose lives are intertwined when the father of one family kills the son of the other in a hit-and-run accident. Mark Ruffalo, Jennifer Connelly and Mira Sorvino also star. Excerpts from the interview:

You have played dark characters before, but your role here is that of a particularly tortured man. Did you suffer the whole time you were filming?

I don't know if it really dominates you. I've been acting for a long time. I'm 76 *(laughter)*.

You look great for your age.

Thank you very much. I just had some work done *(laughter, as he pushed his facial skin toward his ears)*. I don't go home feeling affected by things. The only time I go home concerned about work is when I think about the choices I made as an actor—like whether I've managed to convey X emotion or not.

Dream

I remember working on "Walk the Line" and having a dream about Johnny Cash. Big f - - - - - g deal! You have been reading about Cash for two months and listening to his music.

How do you not expect it to enter your subconscious while you sleep? I realize that it's not because I've become Johnny and now I'm feeling what he's feeling.

I'm not sure who's responsible for the stories of me so obsessed with being Cash during the shoot. It seems like it's a combination of the studios, the actors and journalists. They sort of conspire to give it some extra meaning.

How did you prepare for your confrontation scene with Mark Ruffalo?

I sat in my trailer, listened to audio from this man named David (whom I interviewed). He had lost a son in a hit and run. I had about an hour of tape. He was trying to speak, but his breathing kept getting in the way.

Heartbreak

As I listened, he would go from what sounded like heartbreak to utter rage. I sat practicing those things and tried to find out how I could tie my stomach and force the air through in a certain way.

But, you get out there and go, "I don't know what I'm doing! How do you do this?" We sat around for an hour doing nothing, because it was hard to walk out at nine o'clock, with the crew there and lights everywhere.

(Spoiler alert—skip this paragraph if you don't want to learn about a crucial plot development in "Reservation Road") They go like, "Okay, this is the guy who killed your son. You finally have him! Now, pull him out of the truck." I didn't really know what to do! *(End of spoiler alert)*

Terry (George, the director) got frustrated and yelled at Mark and me. We went back, sat around and didn't talk to each other. This was how f - - - - - g boring it was! There was nothing going on.

Then, it was like, "We have to do this, we have only two hours left to do the scene!" I punched the car of Ethan (Mark's character) and hurt my hand. It made me very angry. Then, we did the scene.

Whenever I'm asked about my acting process, I say it's more like an act of desperation. It's like asking somebody who had survived a 60-foot fall: "What was his process for survival?" I don't know! I was upside down at one point *(laughter)*.

You shared a house with Mark during the filming. How was that like?

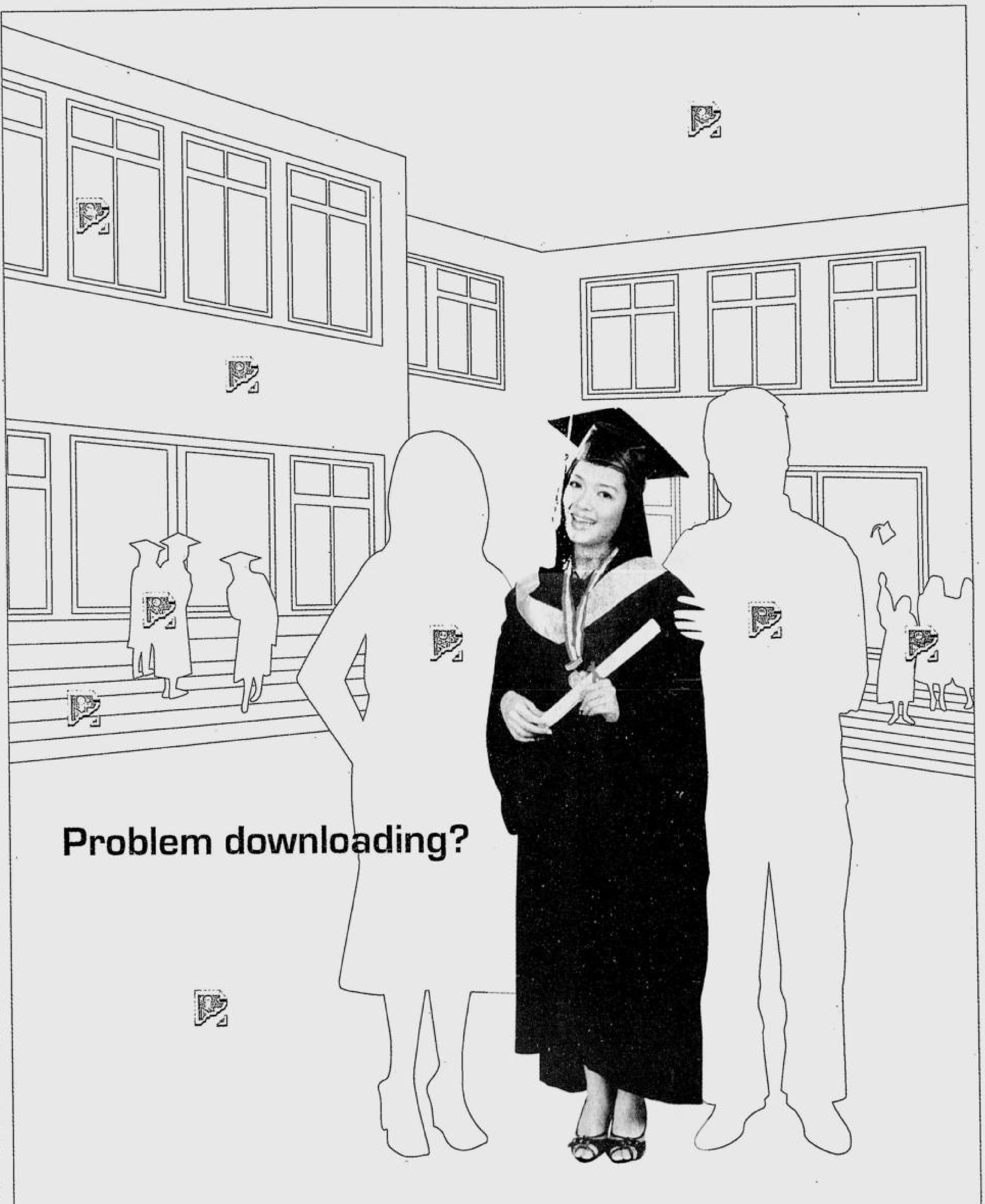
You come up with thoughts like, I thought I didn't want to know anything about Mark's story—I didn't want to sympathize with him. I thought, I will not see Mark until we do our scenes together.

By day two, we meet, and I was like, "Hey, man, I have rented this big house. Do you want to come over and crash?" *(Laughter)* I threw out the idea that I thought was going to be very important for me in terms of character development.

It was funny! We hardly saw each other. What would happen was that, I'd have a stretch of two or three days where I'd work. Then, he'd have a stretch of a few days of work. So, when I was working, he usually took off to the city or go back to LA to see his family.

We recently interviewed Robert Duvall, who plays your estranged father in "We

DUVALL/ G2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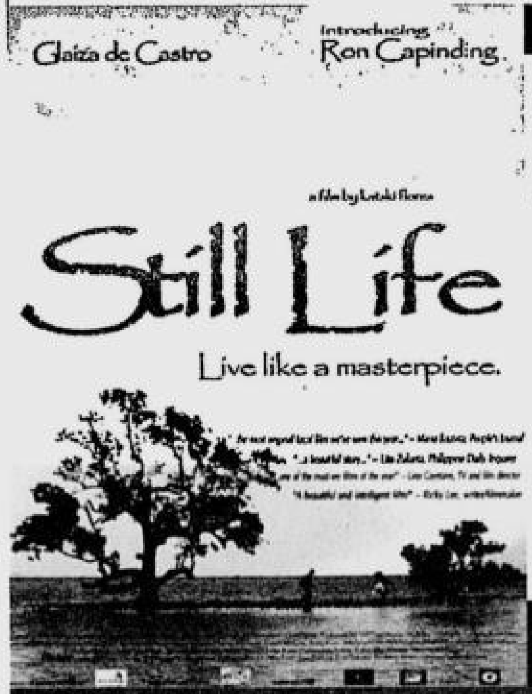

a film by Katski Flores

STILL LIFE is the story of James Masino, a gifted Filipino painter who finds out he is afflected with a paralyzing disease known as Guillain Barre Syndrome. Faced with a future where he can no longer paint, James leaves his life in the city and goes on a self-imposed exile to paint one last time, one final masterpiece. Unable to imagine a life without his art, he plans to kill himself once he finishes this painting. But Fate intervenes and derails this grand scheme when James learns that he must share this exile with Emma, a beautiful and mysterious young girl who at 19 has lived a life much too old for her years. But it is her courageous and unfailing optimism despite what life has dealt her that ultimately inspires James to realize a life beyond his canvass. Her search for meaning propels his journey towards hope and redemption.

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Ligaw Liham

Sometime in the 70's, in a small town in Negros, the post office simply stops its operations. No one knew about this except for the postman and his caretaker. When Nor, finds out about this secret, he finds an opportunity to sway to the dance of love when he assumesthe identity of another man. Nor reads the letters hidden in an old warehouse and takes over the pen of Karen's husband who was working in Saigon. Soon after, a correspondence between Nor and Karen takes place. And Nor finds himself truly falling in love.

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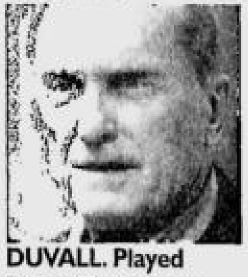

DUVALL. Played Phoenix's father in "We Own the Night."

Duvall calls Joaquin . . .

From page G1

Own the Night." He was asked what it was like to work with you. He said, "Oh, Wacko Phoenix!"

Wacko? It takes one to know one *(laughter)*. This is the guy who talks to me about steak, lobster and tango *before* we do a serious scene. Then, he just hits it! There's nothing of that serious actor-getting-into-it bullsh-t!

Admiration

I have great admiration for Duvall. I don't think there's an actor who has seen his work who wasn't affected by his performance. It's difficult to go into a situation where you're supposed to have virtually no respect for somebody that you admire so much. So, it was important for me that our relationship would be one of antagonism.

I wanted a reaction from Duvall from the very beginning. The reason I put an earring on my ear was that I was hoping he would look at me and think what a pathetic pussy I was *(laughter)*.

The moment Duvall saw that I had an earring, he walked right up and said, "What the hell is this?" He started flapping my ear, going, "What's this?" It was effective!

He did actually swing at me once. It was something I felt I needed. In no way was it meant to affect his performance. I'm not arrogant enough to think that I could do that!

On the set

I would walk on the set, and he and Mark would be laughing, telling stories, talking about food and going out. Then, it would fall silent. Duvall would turn away from me. The only way I could get his attention was by flicking his ears and calling him a bat *(laughter)*. *That* was effective!

You worked with Casey Affleck a long time ago in "To Die For." He's finally breaking through with his performances in "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford" and "Gone Baby Gone," where he was directed by his brother, Ben Affleck. Were you surprised he didn't become a star sooner?

The frustration of many people close to Casey is that, we've always known that he can do the "Bourne" series or "Walk the Line"—and do them better!

This development is probably the happiest I've felt about anything in the movie industry in a long time, because Casey's story is the true story of perseverance! He was constantly being told, "You don't have it—you don't have the depth."

Terrified

He constantly fought. He's the guy I called on every single movie—from "Gladiator," to "Signs"—when I was terrified and didn't know what to do! Casey spent hours on the phone to talk through stuff with me.

His talent goes far beyond acting. He's one of the greatest writers I've ever worked with. And everyone knows he can direct. Now, it's happening to him. He's somebody who's had to struggle through s--tty films, with directors who lacked half his intellect. He persevered—and it was hard for him. It's a beautiful thing, and that's inspiring!

E-mail rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

JOHNSON (LEFT). Meets his greatest match in "The Game Plan."

Diverse viewing...

From page G6

that he's the last in a group of warriors who have dedicated their lives to fighting the forces of the Dark. Traveling back and forth through time, he discovers a series of clues that lead him to a showdown with forces of unimaginable power.

"The Game Plan" offers a breezy change of pace as Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson meets his greatest match—and she's only about four feet tall!

Yes, The Rock is thrown for a loop in this family comedy, when he discovers the daughter he never knew existed, waiting for him on his doorstep. Now, he has to learn how to combine his sports activities and dates with new "daddy responsibilities"—and he has a tough time mastering the dicey juggling act!

Finally, **"The Pineapple Express"** fields hot, new star Seth Rogen, who scored unexpected hits with "Knocked Up" and "Superbad." His third starrer is an action-packed comedy about a pair of dedicated dopers chased by a drug gang. James Franco co-stars.

ROGEN. Is third time the charm for the hot, new star?

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CINEMA 4 RESIDENT EVIL 10:45, 12:40, 3:10 5:40, 8:10, 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 5 STARDUST 10:45, 1:45, 4:40 7:35, 10:50 GP
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October 25, 2007 Ogie Alcasid 8:00 PM
October 27, 2007 Jonathan Badon 8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
Oct. 10, 17, 24 & 31 Cerrudo Classico 8:00 PM
October 26, 2007 John Lesaca 8:00 PM

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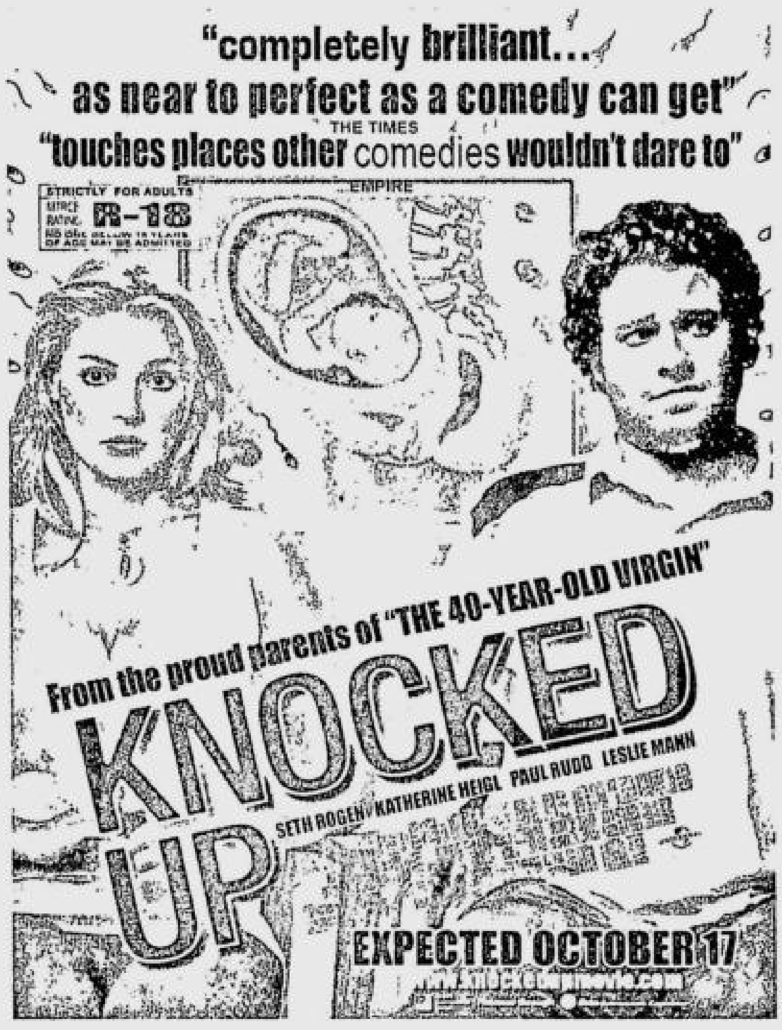
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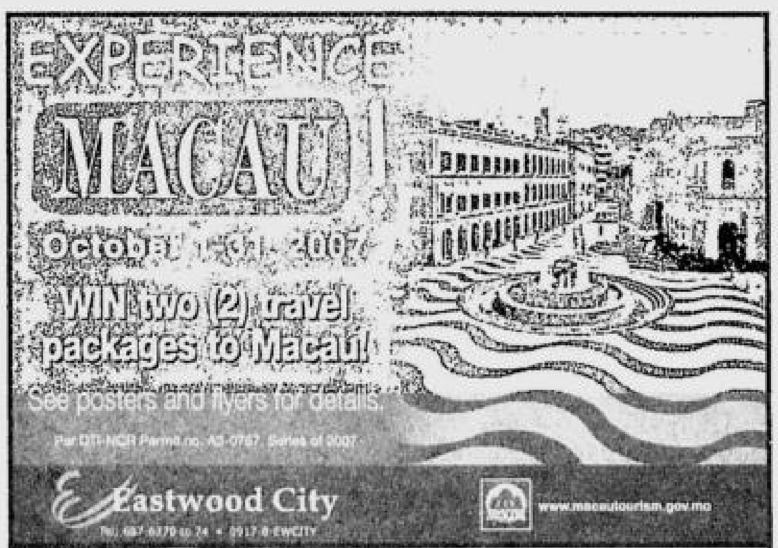
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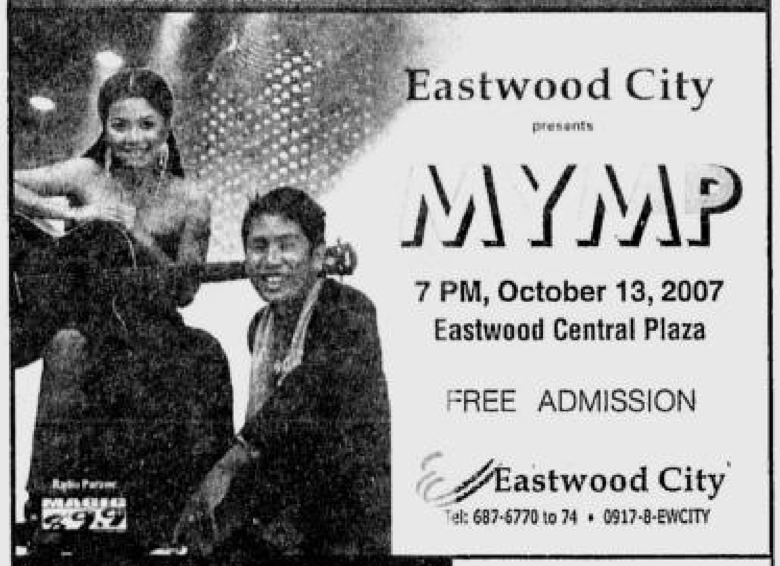

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1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
2 STARDUST 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05 G
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER 2:40, 8:00 PG-13
NO RESERVATIONS 5:00, 10:00 G
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 G

Lessons learned from 'Desperate Housewives' slur

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME VIEWERS BELIEVE that the television medium is so powerful that it's useless to complain about its excesses. As a result of this helpless attitude, TV is free to do its worst.

Recently, however, the "Desperate Housewives" show's slur against medical schools in the Philippines—and the hornet's nest of protests that ensued—proved that complaining really does get results, provided it's done in a unified, coordinated way.

TERI Hatcher's TV show got much more than it bargained for.

Protests

The ABC show got much more than it bargained for, with tens of thousands of individual protests on the net, in addition to more formal demands for rectification and redress from Philippine government officials.

At first, the hit series tried to pooh-pooh the protests away—but when they escalated in both numbers and righteous anger, ABC had to buckle under and issue an abject apology.

The fracas became so intense that it even got into US entertainment magazine programs like "The Insider" and "The Daily 10." We trust that the resulting fire and brimstone will dissuade US TV people from cracking thoughtless jokes about other countries, for fear that the cheeky remark could turn around and again bite the erring network in its collective behind.

So, protesting against excesses on TV *does* work. We hope this realization isn't lost on viewers who feel helpless about instituting reforms on the local TV screen.

Another success story should bolster this upbeat feeling: A number of years ago, local viewers were turned off by the sexy "jokes" cracked by some noontime program hosts.

Despite constant criticism, the hosts kept up their "naughty," macho behavior—until the MTRCB issued a series of official warnings that finally convinced noontime show hosts that they could still entertain viewers without cheekily offending their sensibilities.

Happy outcome

The happy outcome is, when you watch noontime TV these days, you get much less of the "green" jokes and off-color remarks that used to disturb parents of young children in the fairly recent past.

That second success story should energize dissatisfied viewers into mounting coordinated protests against other perceived excesses, in the hope that the networks or the MTRCB will act to finally put an end to those disturbing actuations.

From the unhappy letters from viewers we've been receiving, it's clear that there are many excesses on the small screen that are crying for redress.

Major concern

A major concern is some local TV people's disdain for the right of children to wholesome entertainment on television.

Since TV is a medium that enters viewers' homes at all hours of the day or night—and is thus readily available to impressionable kids—it is required to telecast material that's For General Patronage for the most part.

As many viewers can affirm, this rule is sometimes observed more in the breach than in the compliance, so parents, educators and child psychologists need to complain about specific infractions in this regard, until the local TV industry does the right thing for its young viewers.

Throat relief

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

I ATTENDED THE SORE Throat-Free Caravan with product endorser Paulo Bediones, St. Luke's Dr. Natividad Almazan-Aguilar and Astring-O-Sol specialist's manager Mark Manalastas.

During rainy days, people should be more vigilant about their health. Catching coughs or colds is an inconvenience, but we can get relief for itchy throat by using Astring-O-Sol pastilles, soothers, antiseptic mouthwash and lozenges.

According to Dr. Aguilar, the oral antiseptic and lozenges have antibacterial and antifungal action to fight sore throat-causing germs, while pastilles provide a soothing sensation for dry and itchy throats.

Healthy body

We shouldn't be indifferent to the question, "What do I need to learn to achieve a healthy body?" Mindfulness leads to increased effectiveness, while abandonment leads to failure.

I begin my 40-minute daily walk in my veranda before going to work. Walking is the best exercise we can do on our own—and it's free!

DR. ALMAZAN-AGUILAR (left) with Mark Manalastas and Paulo Bediones.

The second habit I developed: Consuming just half the volume of my usual food intake and eating nutritious dishes like *bulanglang* with *saluyot*, *malunggay*, *alugbati* and *okra* with garlic and fish fillet. Instead of coffee, I take ginger tea (fresh *luya*) without sugar, and bamboo shoots with *saluyot*.

I stay away from sweets, red meat, and junk food. So far, I have lost 20 pounds. I don't huff and puff anymore when I climb the Naiidi Hills of Batanes with my photography students. Now, I think twice before reaching for the next bite.

Now, it's a crime to overeat. Keep a tape measure and check that waistline constantly. Life is short, after all.

* * *

Join the Mandy Navasero Batanes Photo Safari from Dec. 27 to 30, and from January to May 2008. Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com, call 899-1767, or check www.mandynavasero.com.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① STARDUST
MTRCB GP
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

② KUNG FU FIGHTER
MTRCB PG-13 1:50, 4:30
RESIDENT EVIL - 3
MTRCB R-13 7:35, 10:00

③ NO RESERVATIONS
MTRCB GP
1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:50

④ WEDDING DAZE
MTRCB R-13 11:40, 1:50
STAR DUST
(GP) 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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STARDUST G 12:15,2:50,5:25,8:00	WEDDING DAZE R13 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	STARDUST G 2:15,4:50,7:25,10:00

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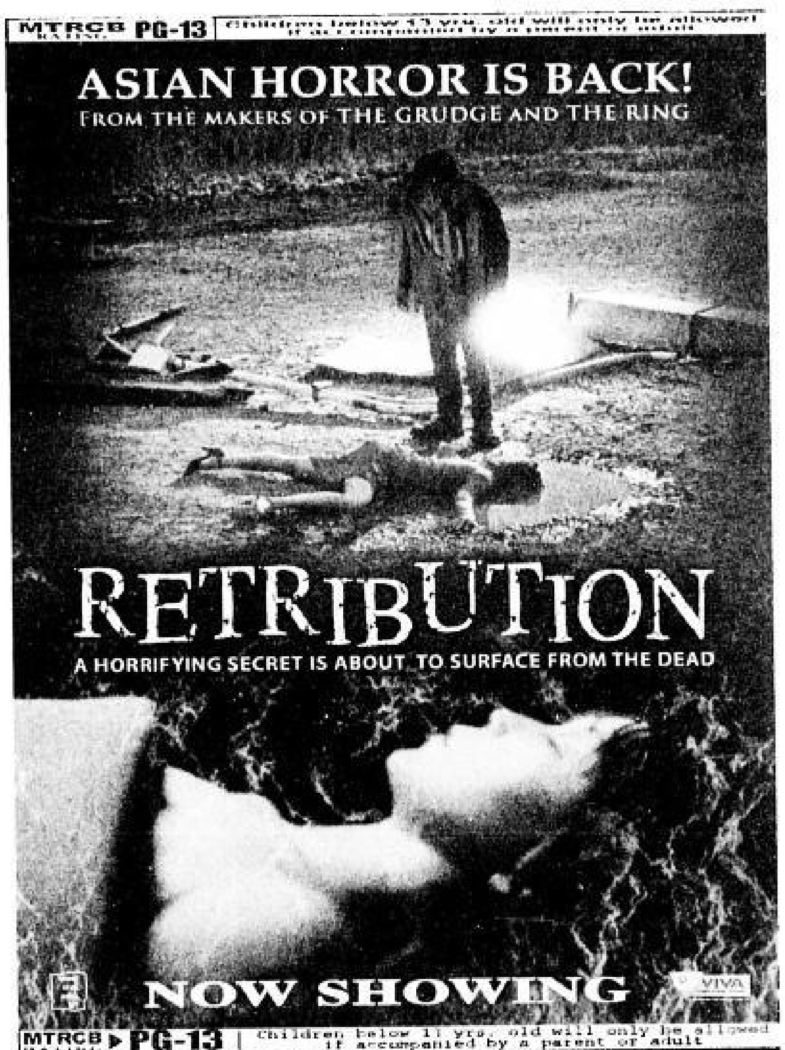

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FAT BOY
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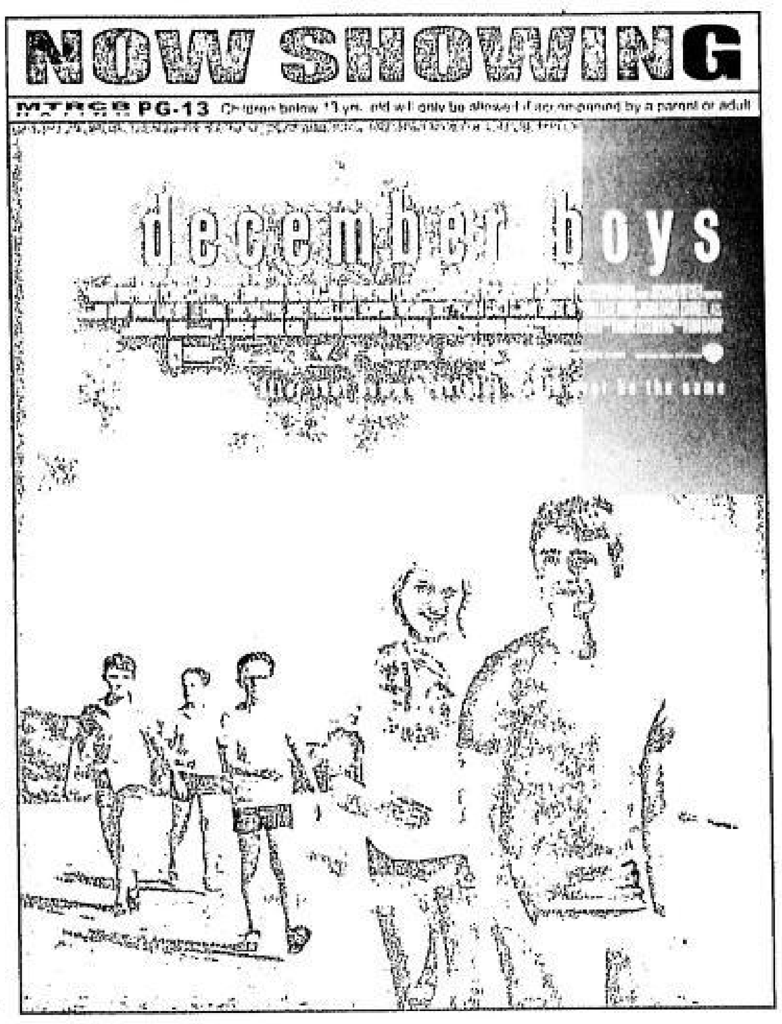
功夫
KUNG FU FIGHTER



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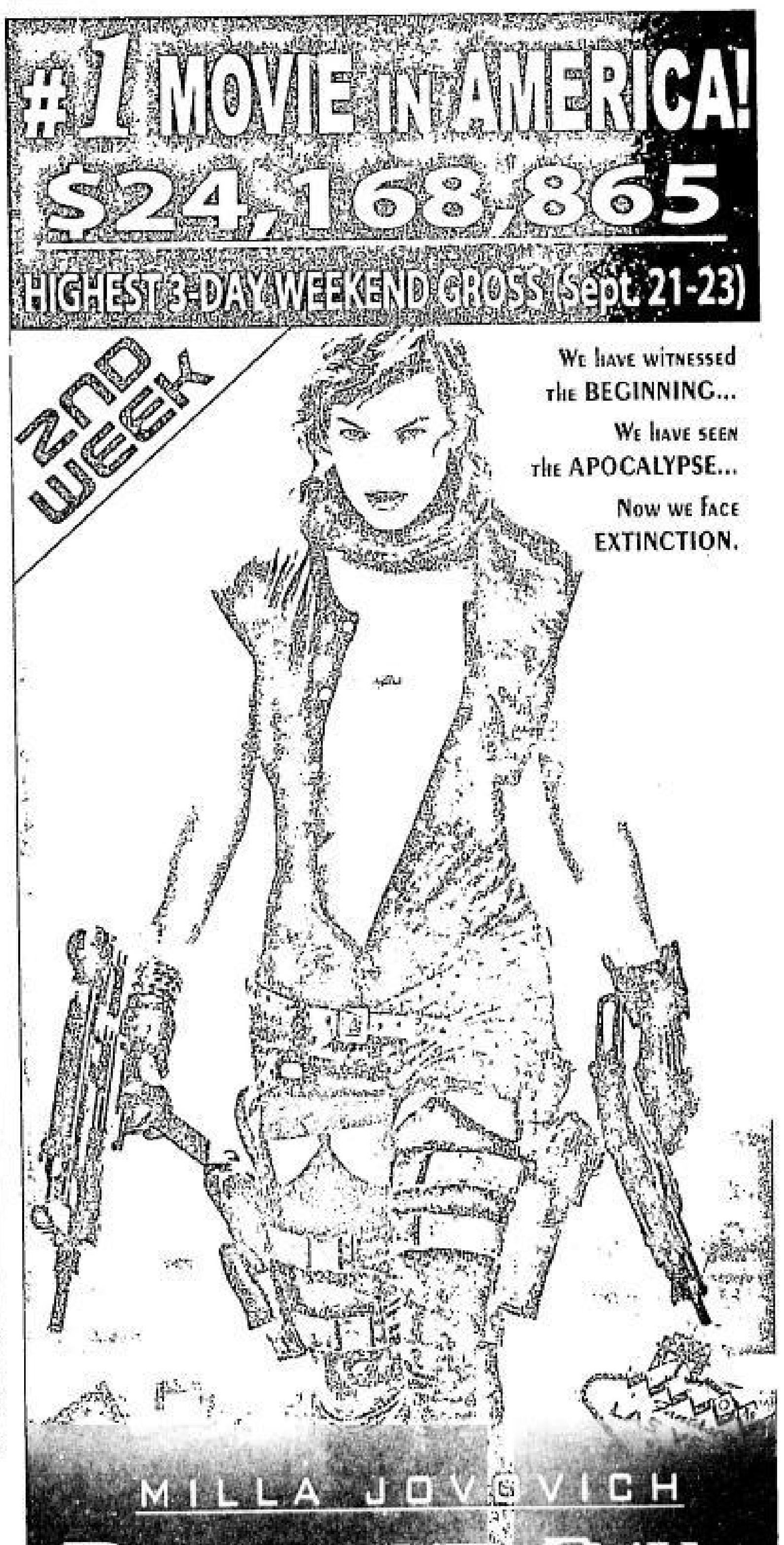
The 11th Hour



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Stanley Donen's oeuvre fused music and fashion

By Behn Cervantes

MUCH-RESPECTED FILM DIRECTOR STANley Donen, who was born in 1924, is often associated with Gene Kelly. The two talented hoofers became friends in 1940 and danced and co-choreographed such Broadway classics as "Pal Joey" and "Best Foot Forward." Kelly became a big star, while Donen chose to concentrate on choreography and film directing.

DONEN. Frequently collaborated with Gene Kelly.

Later, he was contracted to direct his buddy Gene and Rita Hayworth in "Cover Girl." He likewise directed "A Date with Judy," starring soprano Jane Powell and young beauty Elizabeth Taylor, who reportedly had an affair with the filmmaker after the actress' divorce from Nicky Hilton.

Innovation

Donen was acclaimed as a classy and innovative choreographer. Soon, he was again tapped to direct Kelly in "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" co-starring a tap-dancing Frank Sinatra and Hollywood's favorite mermaid, Esther Williams.

The director created movie-musical magic when he directed "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," starring Jane Powell and Howard Keel. The musical is best remembered for the most acrobatic and exhilarating choreography ever captured on the screen!

Donen's Broadway background served him well when he directed the much-admired stage musical, "Damn Yankees," starring Gwen Verdon. He was also tapped to direct the screen version of "The Pajama Game," starring Doris Day and John Raitt. Once again, Donen brilliantly captured the musical's vim and vigor when it was adapted for film.

Critical acclaim

After many successful Hollywood musicals, the talented filmmaker switched to the suspense genre and earned critical acclaim for "Charade," with Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant, and "Arabesque," with Sofia Loren and Gregory Peck. The films showcased Hepburn and Loren's comic flair and fashion sense.

Donen then experimented with light romance in movies like "Indiscreet," starring Ingrid Bergman and Cary Grant.

Donen used style, rhythm and fashion as integral parts of his films' production design. When his peers gave him a Lifetime Achievement Award, the much-admired choreographer-director didn't give a lengthy, sentimental speech—instead, he demonstrated some tap-dancing steps!

PBO . . .

From page G5

Ratsky's Tomas Morato on Oct. 20. Call 435-1098.

'The APO Collection'

At the Music Museum tonight, the acclaimed APO Hiking Society regale their fans with their "The APO Collection" concert, which aims to utilize their artistry to bind music fans from different generations. Call 426-0103.

'Ataul for Rent'

Neal Tan's indie feature, "Ataul for Rent," will be premiered on Oct. 25 at SM Megamall Cinema 10. The film stars Joel Torre, Jaclyn Jose and Noni Buencamino.

'Kid Nation'

Tomorrow at 7 p.m., Studio 23 premieres the controversial reality show, "Kid Nation," which relocates 40 kids to Bonanza City, New Mexico, where they are tasked to build their own society.

Kids will be allowed to go home when they want to, and instead of an elimination each week, one kid will be selected by his peers to earn a "gold star" worth $20,000.

Mossimo's weekend sale

A sale of chic Mossimo apparel will be held today and tomorrow at SM North Edsa (at noon) and Trinoma (at 3 p.m.). Special "meet and greet" guests are Miguel Escueta today, and Rocksteddy tomorrow.

Alchemy in Wonderland

This Halloween Night, get enmeshed in the world of Alice as Alchemy throws a Mad Trip party at the Decagon. The party features the magic of Erik Mana, the music of Jesse Garcia, and the ambience art of Pan Martinez.

At Metropolis Star Alabang

Tomorrow, the Windsong Pop Music Recital, and kids are taught how to make delicacies at Starland. Oct. 21, a chocolate molding course, and Aeon Records artists' mall tour.

'Small Intentions'

Ongoing until Nov. 12 at The Oarhouse (1803 Mabini st., Malate) is "Small Intentions," an exhibit of Cesare Syjuco's new literary hybrids, recent small-scale works curated by Jean Marie Syjuco.

'Conviction'

At 8 p.m., Fridays, the C/S channel telecasts "Law & Order" creator Dick Wolf's new series, "Conviction." The character-driven drama is about five young district attorney's struggles as they try to make sense of challenging cases and provocative personal lives.

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1 STURDUST
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3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 WEDDING DAZE / STARDUST
PREMIERE
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

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2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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1 WEDDING DAZE
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 RETRIBUTION
6 STURDUST
7 CHUCK & LARRY
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 ONE PERCENT FULL

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2 ONE PERCENT FULL
3 STURDUST
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
3 HOST
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 RETREBUTION

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SINKING JAPAN
2 SKINWALKERS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 SHOOT EM UP
4 WHITE NOISE

Centre Plaza Cinema
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1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN

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3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
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3 HOST
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1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RISE BLOOD HUNTER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
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2 I FALLEN FOR YOU
3 LAST LEGION
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

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(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN

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2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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1 HOST
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Lianas Cinema
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1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 KALAPATI SA GABI
3 KANDUNGAN
4 DISTURBIA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 DISTURBIA
2 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 HOST
5 CHUCK & LARRY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ALIPIN NG ALIW
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

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2

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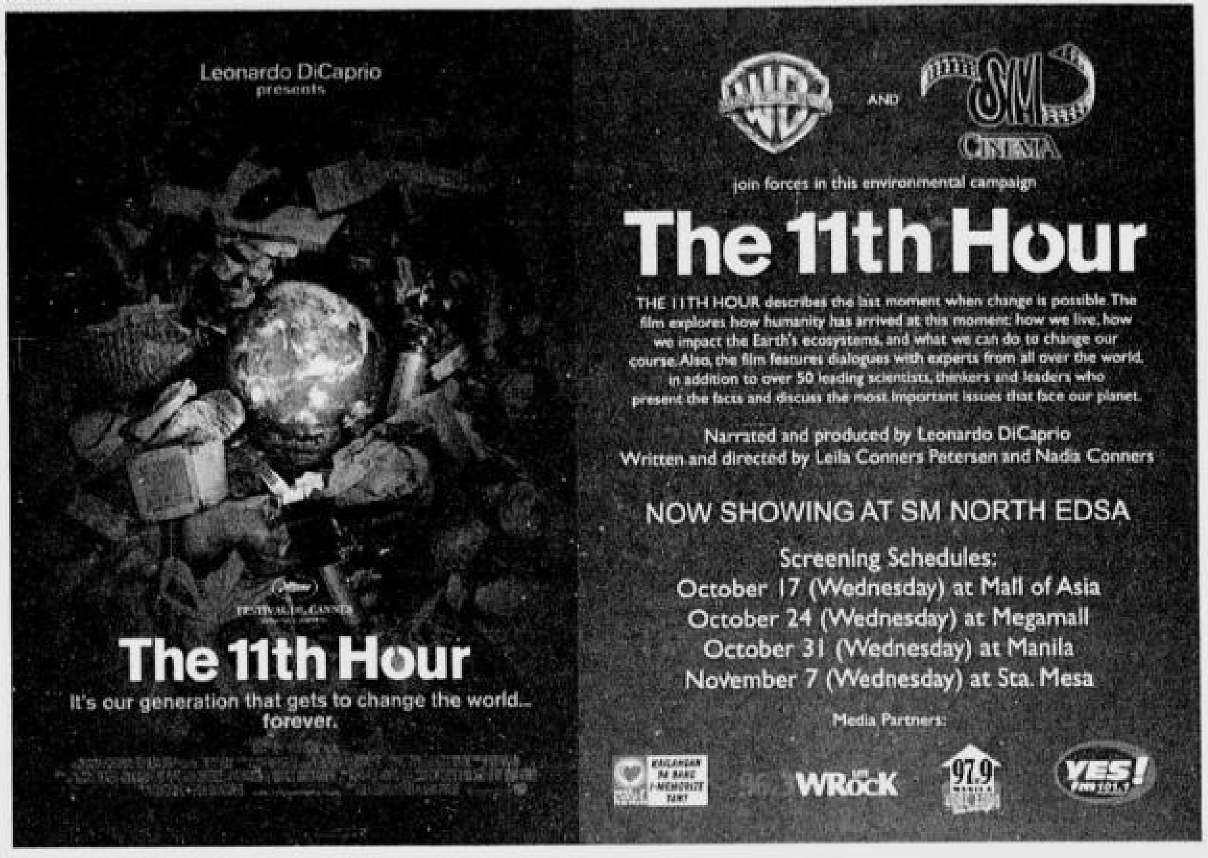

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Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio
Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

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7 STARDUST
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 ONE PERCENT FULL
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

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2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 WEDDING DAZE
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 RETRIBUTION
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 STARDUST
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 DECEMBER BOYS
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 STARDUST
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 WEDDING DAZE
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 RETRIBUTION
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 STARDUST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ONE PERCENT FULL
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 RETRIBUTION
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ONE PERCENT FULL
3 RETRIBUTION
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6 STARDUST
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 1408
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 WEDDING DAZE
11 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 SKINWALKERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 DAYWATCH
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 STARDUST
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 ONE PERCENT FULL
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 ONE PERCENT FULL

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 DECEMBER BOYS

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 THE BRAVE ONE/ I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 STARDUST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ONE PERCENT FULL

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 STARDUST

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 BLIND DATING
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 SKINWALKERS
6 DAYWATCH

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 DAYWATCH
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 RESERVED
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 DAYWATCH
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 SKINWALKERS
3 STARDUST
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 ONE PERCENT FULL
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU/THE BRAVE ONE

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

PBO screens 'Siquijor: Mystic Island'

From page G6

reinvented herself as "a coy but naughty *masahista* on-air," training herself to speak *Pinoy* street talk in a playful way.

And Robin Sienna is the first-ever Manila-based DJ who's been given free rein to speak in her native Visayan tongue, to capture the huge listener base that her region-mates have in the metro. She goes on board from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays.

'The Wayside School ' on Nickelodeon

Every Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m., Nickelodeon opens the gates to "The Wayside School," a comical cartoon on how kids perceive the world around them. Best for grade schoolers aged 6-11, the show is based on the best-selling book, "Sideways Stories from Wayside School."

The show deals with situations or issues like peer pressure, first love, parent-teacher meetings, and other circumstances kids can easily relate to. Lead characters include new boy in school Todd, tough girl Mauricia, overachiever Danz and ambitious Myron.

Big Christmas sale at Mano Mano

From Oct. 16 to Dec. 22, the popular handicrafts store, Mano Mano (2594 Lamayan, Sta. Ana) is holding an "Arangkadang Pamasko" sale, with beautiful decor items from all over the Philippines at up to 60 percent off. Mano Mano is a Fair Trade store whose products are prized all over the world. Call (632) 561-0395, or email manomano@safrudi.com.

'Children's Letters to God'

Repeat performances of the hit musical, "Children's Letters to God," will be held today at Insular Life Auditorium, Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, and on Oct. 20 and 21 at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati. Call 891-9999, or visit www.childrensletterstogod.com.ph

CHAN. Sings at SM-Makati to promote new album.

Jose Mari Chan

Tomorrow at 5 p.m., Jose Mari Chan performs at SM-Makati to promote his hit album, "Love Letters and Other Souvenirs."

'Simply Irresistible'

Tonight's the night for Mark Bautista's major concert, "Simply Irresistible," at Aliw Theater, with special guests Sarah Geronimo, Rachelle Ann Go, Rufa Mae Quinto and Anne Curtis. Call 911-5555.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 1 p.m., "Liar, Liar." Tomorrow at 5 p.m., "The Lake House." Oct. 15 at 11 p.m., "Citizen Cohn." Oct. 16 at 11 p.m., "The 40-Year-Old Virgin." Oct. 17 at 11 a.m., "Meet the Fockers." Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m., "Superman Returns." Oct. 19 at 5 p.m., "The Lords of Discipline."

On Cinemax today at 11 p.m., "The Manchurian Candidate." Tomorrow at 4:30 p.m., "Apollo 13." Oct. 15 at 1 p.m., "Alfie." Oct. 16 at 9 a.m., "Dog Day Afternoon." Oct. 17 at 9 p.m., "In Good Company." Oct. 18 at 7 a.m., "East of Eden." Oct. 19 at 1 p.m., "Casino." 5 p.m., "To Be the Best."

Wacky October at Sta. Lucia

Wild and wacky activities at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall this month: Oct. 19, SMB Oktoberfest; Oct. 20, sports and music fuse at the Urge Super X series; Oct. 26, "Mr. & Ms. Sexy Body 2008" screening, and on Oct. 27, Rhum Rockfest street party.

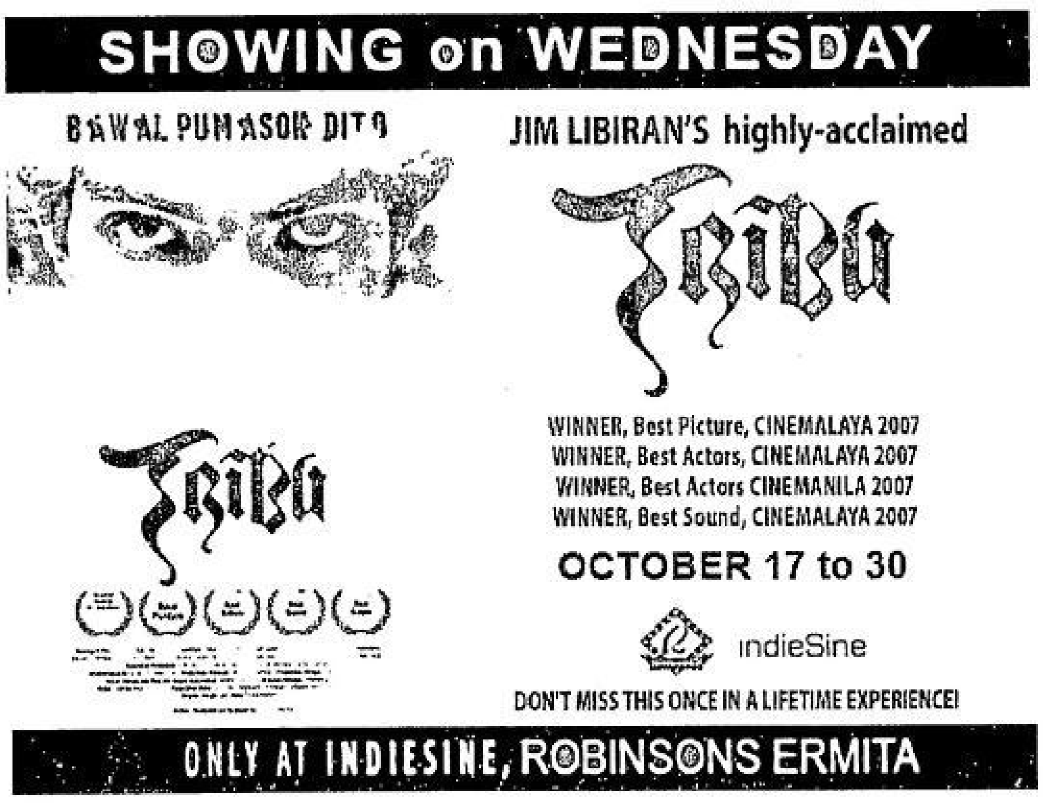
'Space Mysteries: Comets'

At 9 p.m. on Oct. 15, the National Geographic Channel telecasts "Space Mysteries: Comets," about the icy giants that offer a unique view into how the planets formed and how the universe evolved.

'Ako Pooh si K'

Comedian Pooh, who's known for his impersonation of Manny Pacquiao, joins K Brosas in the musical comedy act, "Ako Pooh si K," at

PBO/ G4



SHOWING on WEDNESDAY
BAWAL PUMASOK DITO
JIM LIBIRAN'S highly-acclaimed
Triba
WINNER, Best Picture, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actors, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actors CINEMANILA 2007
WINNER, Best Sound, CINEMALAYA 2007
OCTOBER 17 to 30
indieSine
DON'T MISS THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!
ONLY AT INDIESINE, ROBINSONS ERMITA

CHAPTER 1:
From the Highlands of Scotland to the streets of New York, he fought his first battle and won.
CHAPTER 2:
With the help of his powerful mentor, he saved the world from evil.
CHAPTER 3:
He is faced with an enemy from the past whose sole purpose is to eliminate him and become the only immortal.
NOW, HE WILL TAKE ON THE MOST POWERFUL AND MOST EVIL IMMORTAL OF ALL.
OPENS OCT.17
GOOD VS EVIL
ONE FINAL BATTLE
ADRIAN PAUL
HIGHLANDER
THE SOURCE

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED
DAPAT MAG-ENJOY.
DAPAT KALIMUTAN ANG PROBLEMA.
DAPAT MONG PANOORIN.
KAHIT APAT NA BESES AY SULIT PA RIN!
Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan
Apat Dapat
DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH
Also Starring JOHN LAPUS DJ DURANO DICK ISRAEL MARISSA DELGADO CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ KIRAY VINCE SALDANA
CHESTER NOLLEDO ANDREW SCHIMMER KIAN KAZEMI ASHLEY GRUENBERG VICE GANDA RYCHARD EVERLY
Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS
NO. 1 NA SA PATAWA, NO. 1 PA SA TAKILYA!

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Gateway AliMALL FarmersPlaza Farmers Market
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WIN FREE TICKETS TO ALL THE GAMES WITH EVERY P500 PURCHASE
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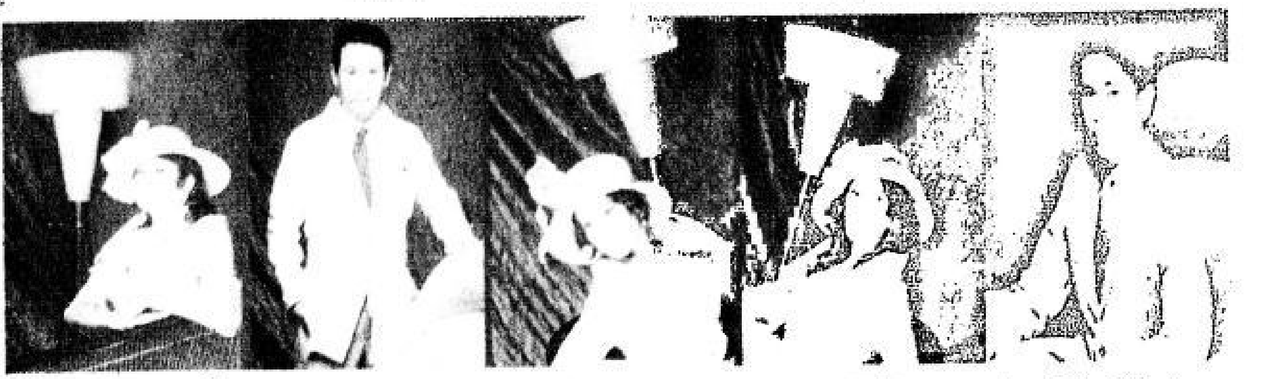
PROMO PERIOD: OCTOBER 8 TO 28
THE WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE HELD AT THE ARANETA COLISEUM FROM NOVEMBER 3-11
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
COMPLETELY UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 12:10 / 4:50 / 9:30
RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:30
STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20
KUNG FU FIGHTER 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30
Gold Platinum Cinema
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
RETRIBUTION 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50
NO RESERVATION 2:30 / 7:10
STARDUST 12:00 / 2:55 / 5:50 / 8:45
AliMALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
RETRIBUTION 12:20 R4 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40
KUNG FU FIGHTER 1:05 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:50
For reservations, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net
4TH PBSI NATIONAL BONSAI OPEN EXHIBITION AND COMPETITION
TODAY
10AM | Bonsai Critique of Top 10 Winners
3pm - 6pm | Lecture Demo-1
7pm - 9pm | Lecture Demo-2
Araneta Coliseum Parking

CLAIRE DANES WITH MICHELLE PFEIFFER AND ROBERT DE NIRO
CHARLIE COX SIENNA MILLER RICKY GERVAIS PETER O'TOOLE
THE FAIRY TALE THAT WON'T BEHAVE.
STARDUST
MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
NOW SHOWING

New projects vivify celebs' artistic passion

The Cultural Center of the Philippines proudly presents

THE COMPANY



Let's Kick Some BrASS!
A Big Band Celebration

featuring
The U.P. Jazz Ensemble
The Cultural Center of the Philippines, Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater)
October 13, 2007. Saturday. 8: 00 p.m.
Musical Direction: Beth Martin

Tickets available at CCP Box Office (832-3704/832-1125 loc. 1409 / 1410); [illegible] National Bookstore [illegible] www.ticketworld.com.ph TICKET

Special Guest Performers: Arthur Manuntag & Michael Guevarra Written and Directed: Moy Ortiz Choreography: Ding Cruz Sound & Lights: Mon Vitan Sets: Eric Cruz Production Manager: Peggy Sangco Technical and Lighting Director: Dong Calinganan Wardrobe: Danilo Franco Jewelry: Arnel Papa Hair & Make Up: Sherwin Cervantes & Bench Fix Salon Publicity Backroom, Inc. Musical Arrangements: Beth Martin, JD Villanueva, Michael Guevarra, Jorge San Jose, Rin Villena Osorio, Moy Ortiz

NESCAFÉ Budget G LIVE WRock RX 93.1 VIVA The Manila Times

By Rito P. Asilo

BERSOLA-BABAO. Adroit storyteller.

WILLIAMS. Theater for the community.

TINTIN BERSOLA-Babao is sorely missed on TV these days, but Julius' adorable wife has kept herself busy with her daily radio program on dzMM, ABS-CBN's flagship AM station.

In the past couple of years, however, she has also reinvented herself as an adroit storyteller of children's tales. Her artistic passion and commitment to social causes are vivified by the relevant projects she continues to support.

Trajectory

Tintin's artistic trajectory as children's storybook writer started in 2004, when she released "Bryan Learns His Lesson," about a spoiled child who learns his lesson the hard way. The book also featured hubby Julius' inspired illustrations.

Early this year, Tintin came up with the 44-page follow-up, "Basura Monster," which reflects the author's advocacy for the environment.

If your kids haven't had their fill of Tintin's relevant stories, they should line up for the new book, "The Story of Christine," which will be launched on Oct. 26 at 4 p.m. in front of Bridges Bookstore at Glorietta 3.

The event will also exhibit the original watercolor artworks used in the book, and a string quartet will serenade guests. The launch will likewise be a birthday celebration for Tintin, who turns 37 on Oct. 30. Also in the works are two more books set for release next year: "Anya's Adventures" and "Bakit Siya Meron, Bakit Ako Wala?"

Challenges

In the field of theater, Michael Williams and Dexter Santos are also excited to take on new challenges. Williams, who plays the Baker in New Voice's Stephen Sondheim musical, "Into the Woods," has just put up a new theater group, Theater Down South, to cater to artists and the theater-going crowd in the southern parts of Metro Manila.

The vision of Michael's group is no mere pipe dream: Theater Down South, an affiliate of Actor's Actors Inc., has already staged William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Insular Life Theater in Alabang. The run resumes this month until February next year. (Call 687-2830)

How different is TDS from other theater groups? Williams replies: "We have a very strong commitment to the community. We're educating the grassroots, and we're curriculum-based."

Choreographer

For his part, choreographer Dexter Santos (who's also working on New Voice's "Into the Woods") is also reinventing himself—as Dulaang UP's next director.

It has been more than a decade since DUP has commissioned a new director to rise from its ranks—the last one being Jose Estrella, now the theater group's artistic director.

Dexter, known for his innovative, unconventional style, has been tapped to direct Francisco Balagtas' full-length *komedya*, "Orosman and Zafira," starring Crisel Consunji, for DUP's 32nd season early next year.

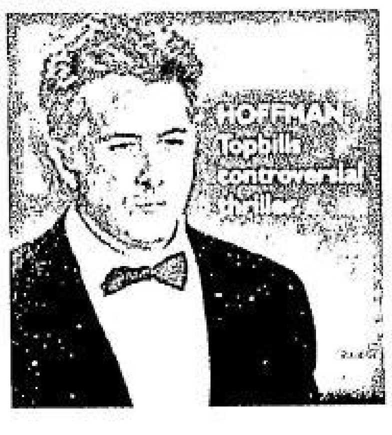
Santos hopes to revive interest in the acclaimed *Bulakenyo* poet's body of work by fusing music, movement and text.

Diverse viewing options for film lovers

By Nestor U. Torre

FILM BUFFS HAVE A HOST OF VIEWING OPTIONS THESE DAYS AND IN THE COMING WEEKS:

"Perfume: The Story of a Murderer" tells the controversial story of a peculiar young man whose hyper-powerful sense of smell leads him to become a serial killer. The film stars Dustin Hoffman and new British comer Ben Whishlaw.



"Harsh Times" is a hyper-realistic story of friendship, loyalty and ambition set in the rough streets of south central Los Angeles. It follows two lifelong friends who try to rise above the violence of the streets, only to be dragged down again. Christian Bale, Freddy Rodriguez and Eva Longoria star.

Quest

A certified "sleeper" hit in the States, **"Superbad"** follows two teenage friends (new stars Michael Cera and Jonah Hill) in their bumbling, bungling quest for girls and alcohol during their final high school days.

"The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising" is an epic adventure that tells the story of a teenager who learns

DIVERSE/ G2

PBO screens 'Siquijor: Mystic Island"

MONTAGE

PBO, VIVA PRODUCTIONS' *Pinoy* movie channel, screens the spine-tingling horror film, "Siquijor: Mystic Island," at 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 26. The "spook-tacular" movie is about a TV crew from Manila that gets caught in a web of mysteries on the island. Stars include Ian Veneracion, Yul Servo, Angel Aquino, Assunta de Rossi, Coco Martin, Sid Lucero, Criselda Volks and Dan Alvaro.

On Oct. 23, PBO's Pambansang Premiere hits Davao City's Gaisano Mall with the special screening for PBO Cable subscribers of "Butterfly on A Wheel," a heart-pounding action-suspense film topbilling Pierce Brosnan and Gerald Butler. The movie is about a happy couple with a seemingly perfect life—until their daughter is abducted.

'Power to Unite with Elvira'

Catch the seventh episode of the religious TV program, "Power to Unite with Elvira," aired Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on NBN-4. On Oct. 16, the show will feature celebrity couple, Robert

VENERACION. Stars in spine-tingling horror flick.

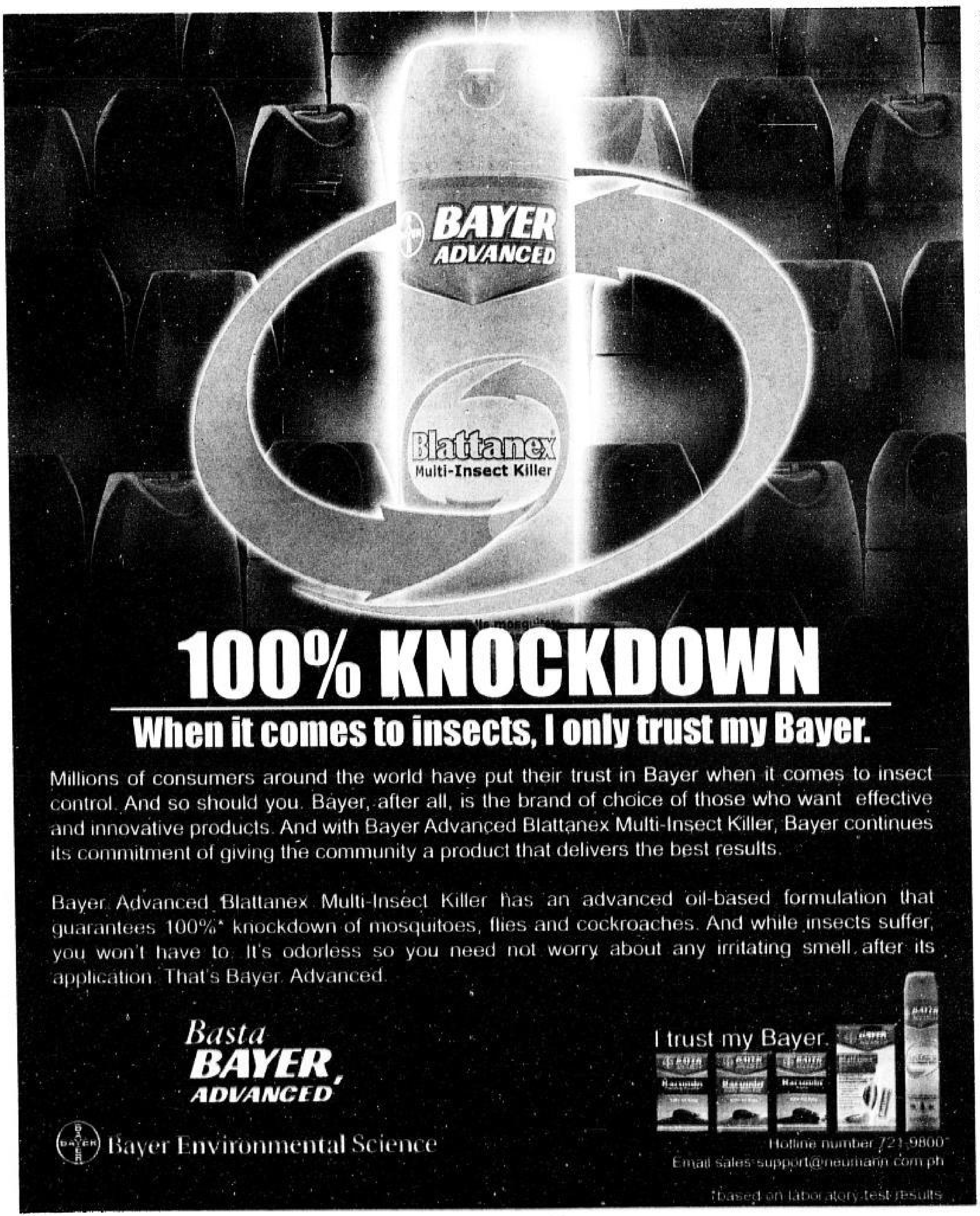
Seña and Isay Alvarez, with Most Rev. Arturo M. Bastes, SVD, D.D., Bishop Sorsogon, as special guest, who will discuss the topic, "Love Is Not Ill-Mannered." Elvira Go hosts.

Wackier Love Radio's new DJs

dzMB Love Radio 90.7 offers a fresh twist to FM listening with three new DJs in "Bagong Bibig": Rica Hera, Broadcast Communications graduate of De La Salle Dasmariñas, goes on board weekdays from 6 to 9 p.m. Her "Balitang Wacha!" segment features "hot, smoking news—with a kick!"

Missy Hista used to be a college teacher, but has successfully

PBO/ G5



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